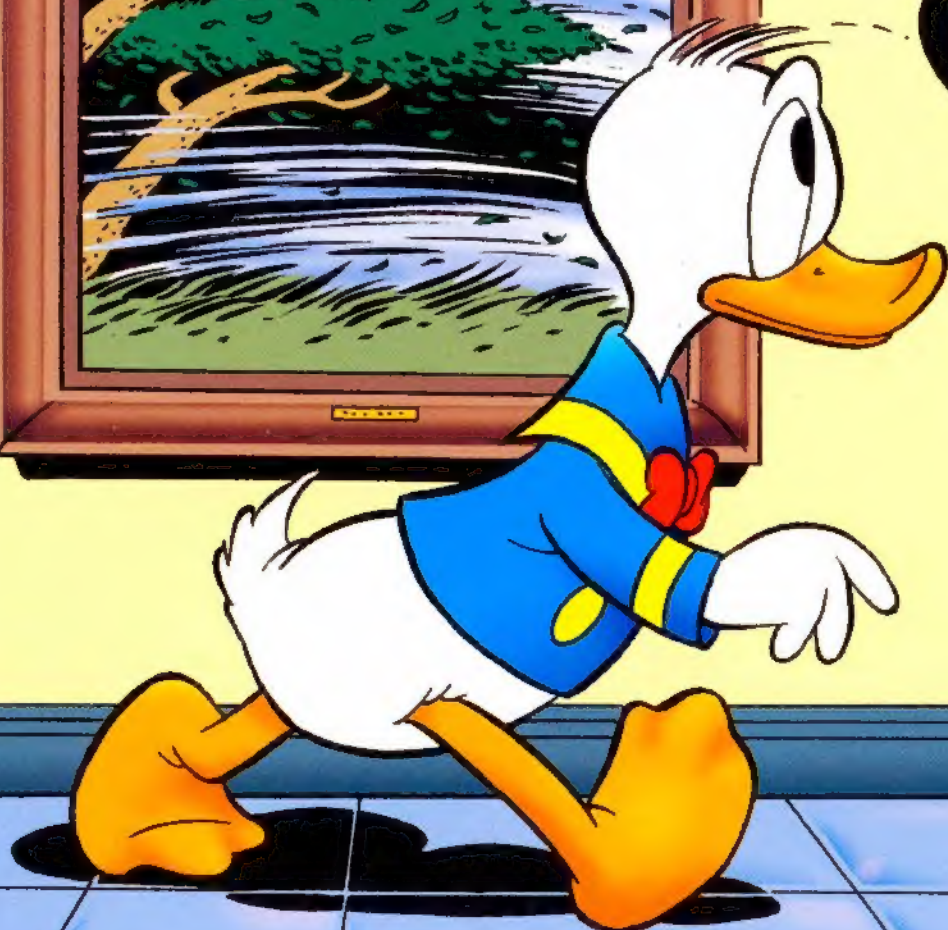
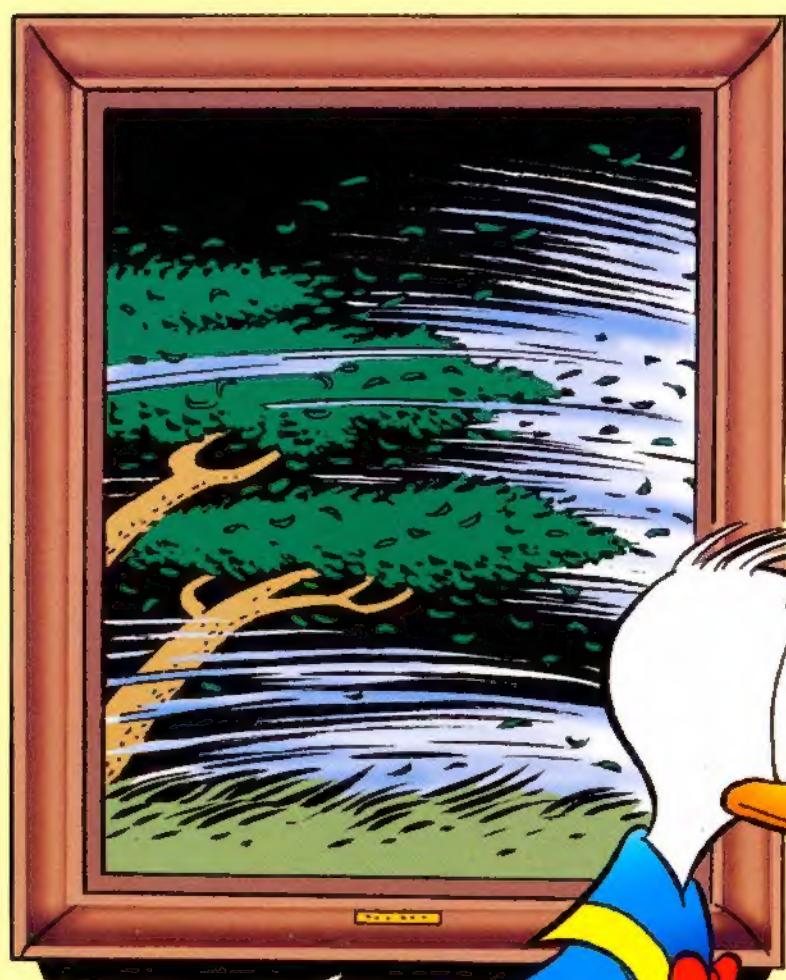


GEMSTONE
PUBLISHING
75th
Anniversary
of
Walt Disney
Comics

APRIL
No. 655

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

\$6.95



WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

Byron Erickson, Creative Director at Egmont, Denmark, informed us of this sad news and provided the following write-up:

It is with great sorrow that we have to inform you that Daniel Branca passed away from a heart attack Friday, January 28, at his home in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was 53 and is survived by his mother and his sister Silvia.

Branca is well known amongst Disney enthusiasts as a highly-accomplished Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge story artist and a cover artist without peer. Branca as a person was much more than his artwork, but it is for that art he will be remembered by the world at large, both for his fine-art paintings and his marvelous and inimitable Disney comic book work. Every page he drew was simultaneously attractive and exciting; every character alive and infused with emotion, every layout carefully considered and composed, every line evidence of a master's studied hand. In short, he brought the same passion with which he lived his life to his artwork, but ruled that passion with an intellect honed through years of observation and carefully learned technique.

He will be missed as a man by those who knew and loved him for his wry smile and ironic comments on the passing parade of life and the entire history of comic art. We can think of no greater praise than to have been judged worthy of his critique.

That he will be missed as an artist goes without saying—his pen is still and we are left only with a longing for "what might have been." That he will be missed as a teacher is not so apparent, but for those of us who had the pleasure to watch him patiently and surely impart his knowledge to the next generation of cartoonists, the loss is enormous.

But there is no reason to miss him as an inspiration, for Daniel Branca's spirit lives in every page he ever drew. Whenever we have a need for that inspiration, we have only to open a comic containing a Branca story to feel his passion and his talent wash over us. That thrill will never fade away.

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **Story, Art & Lettering:**
FULL CIRCLE William Van Horn
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

Goofy **Story:** L. Jensen & C. Spencer
SLEEP TIGHT **Art:** Rodriques
Color: Egmont & Pamela Rambo
Lettering: Susie Lee

Junior Woodchucks **Story:** Carl Barks
BE LEERY OF **Art:** Daan Jippes
LAKE EERIE **Color:** Egmont & S. Rockwell
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Mickey Mouse **Story:** Pat & Carol McGreal
KNIT ONE, **Art:** Rodriques
PEARL TWO **Color:** Egmont & Marie Javins
Lettering: Travis Seidler

Three Caballeros **Story & Art:** Carl Buettner
FOOTBALL (WDC 50, November 1944)
FANDANGO **Color:** Scott Rockwell

Three Little Pigs **Story:** Unknown
PERSONALITY **Art:** Jack Bradbury
PERFECTION (CND 8, December 1956)
Color: Marie Javins

Front cover art by William Van Horn, color by Gary Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF APRIL 20TH
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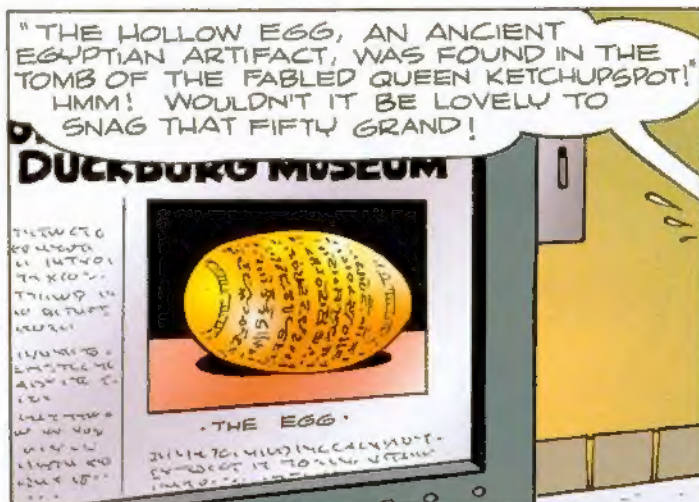
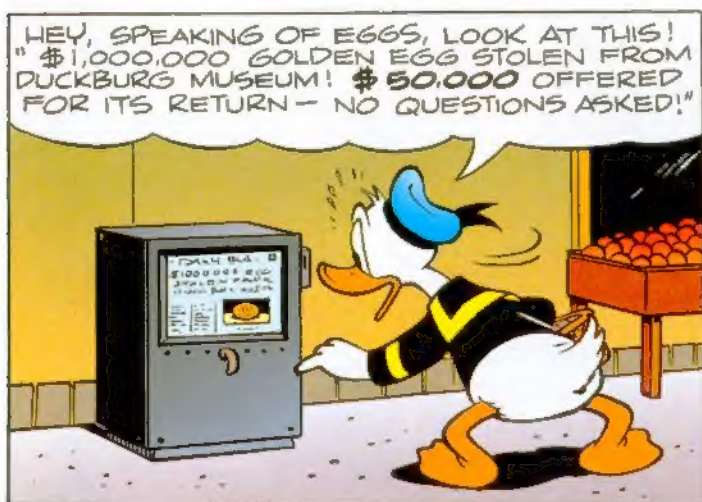
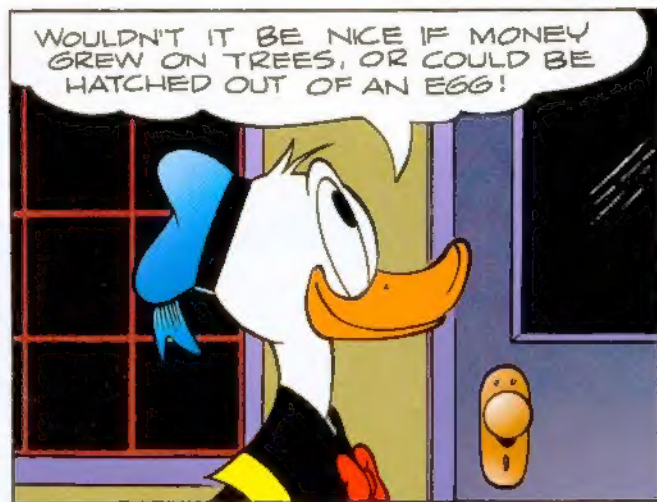
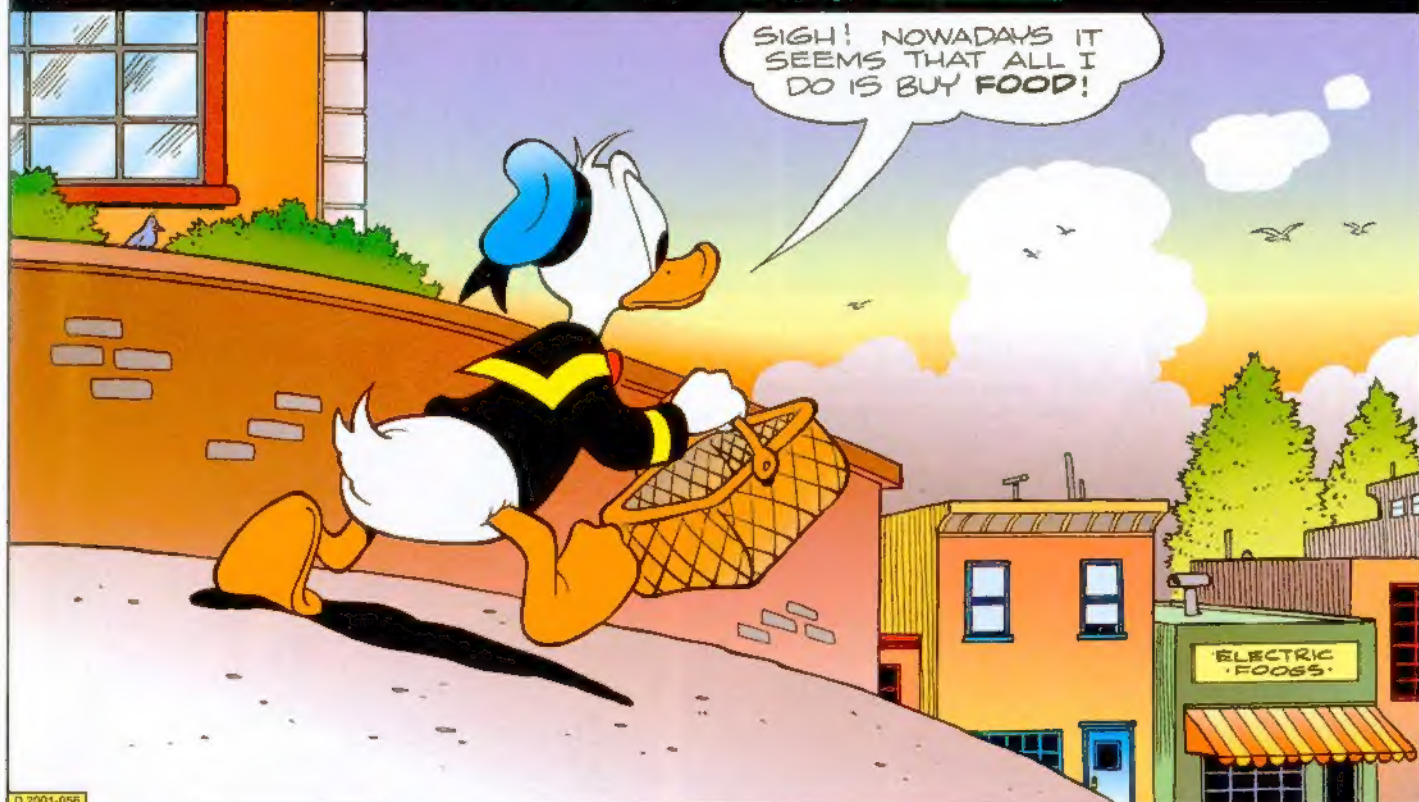
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Inventory Coordinator

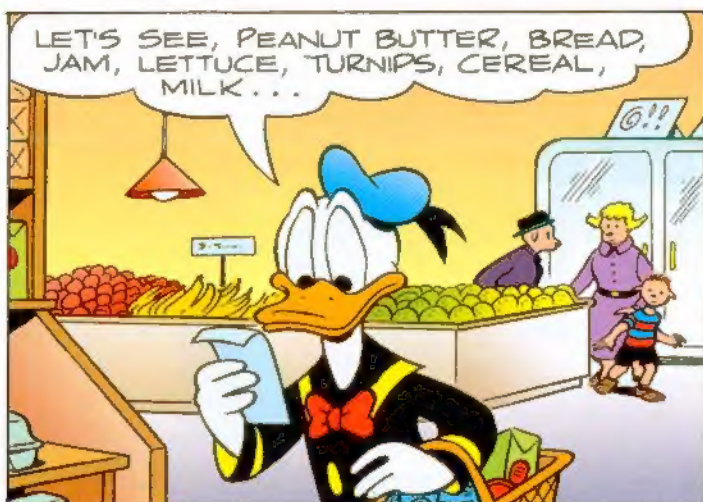
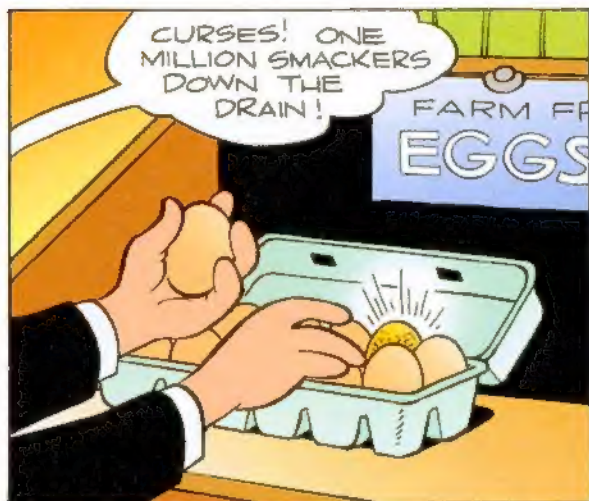
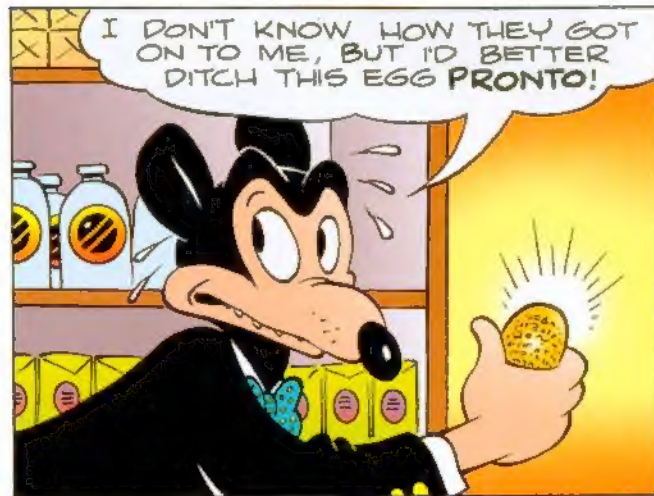
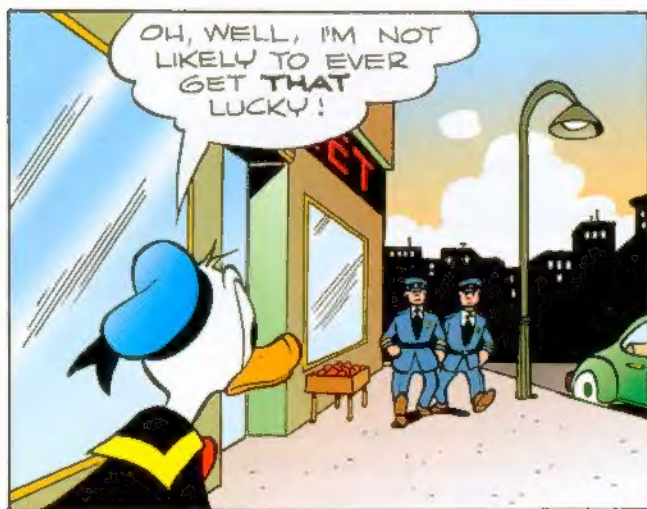
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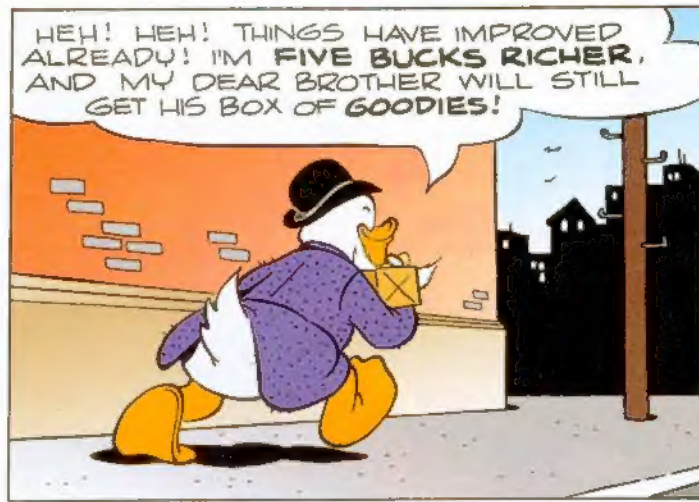
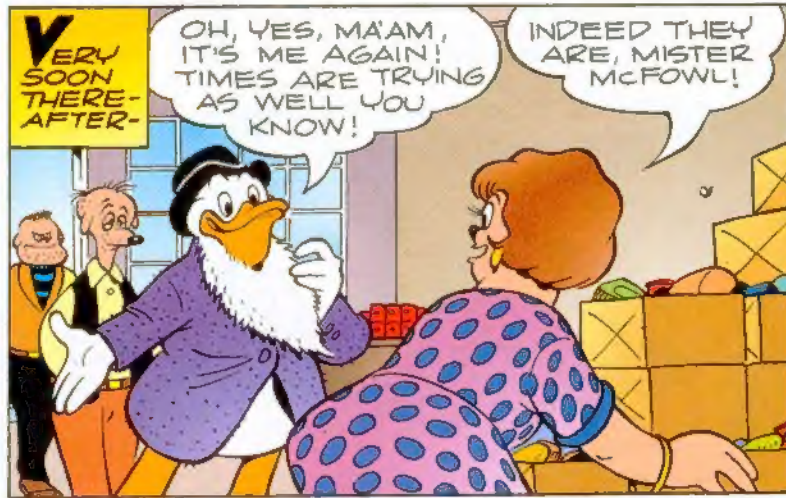
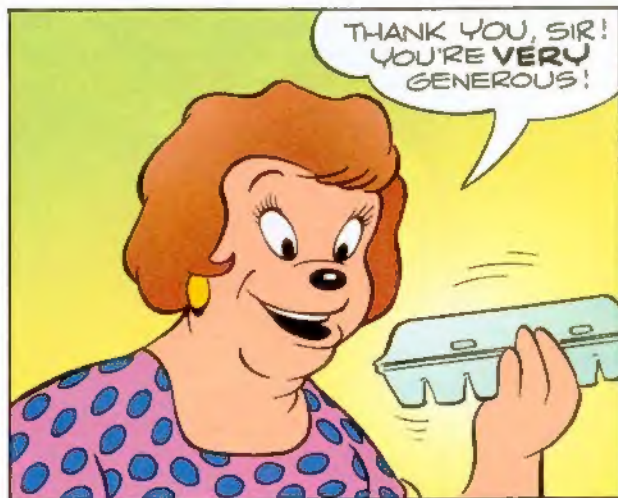
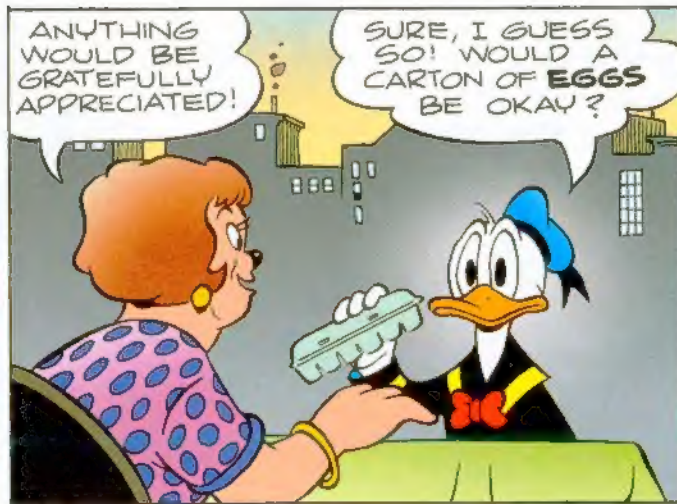
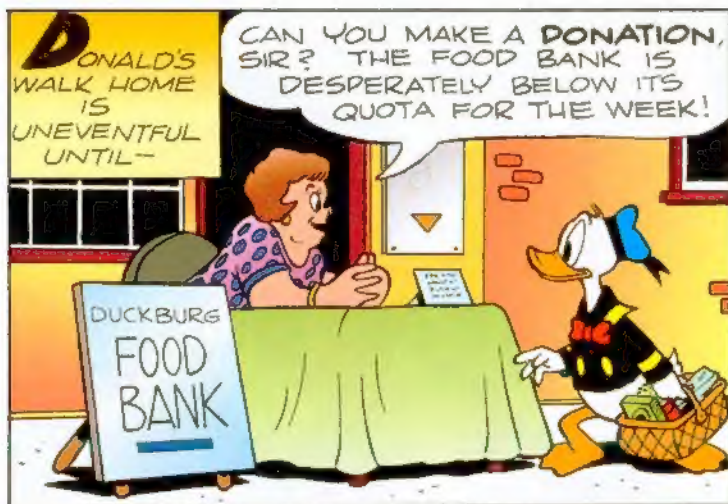
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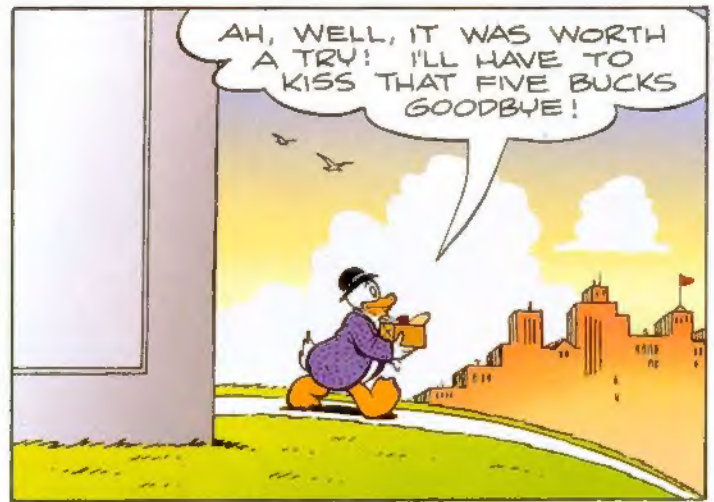
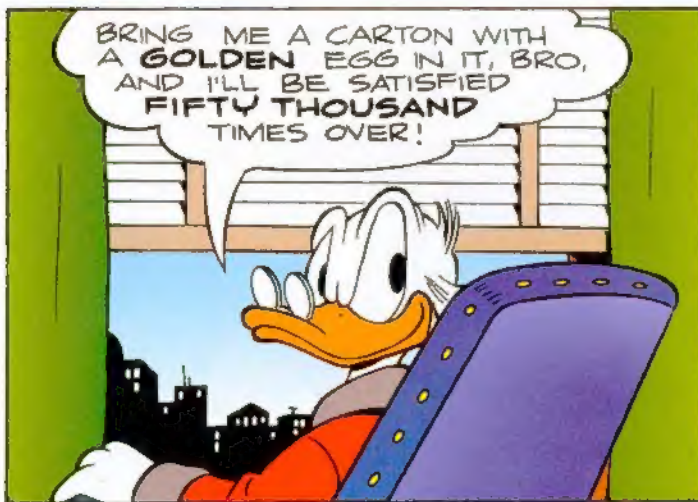
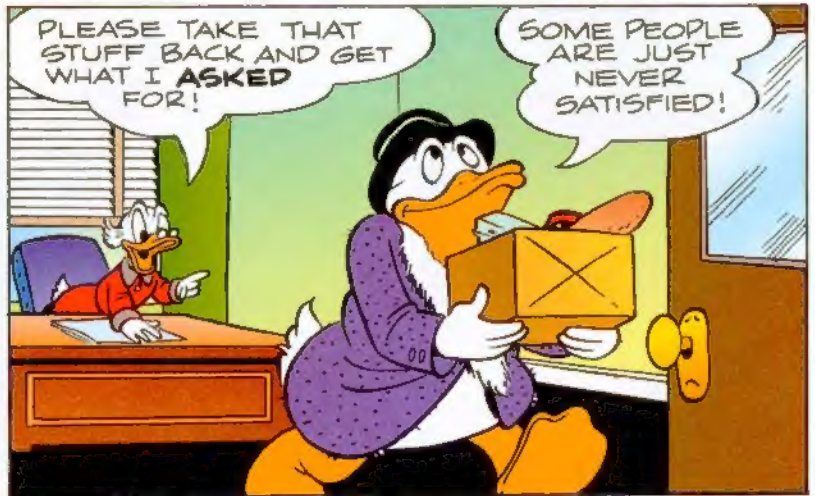
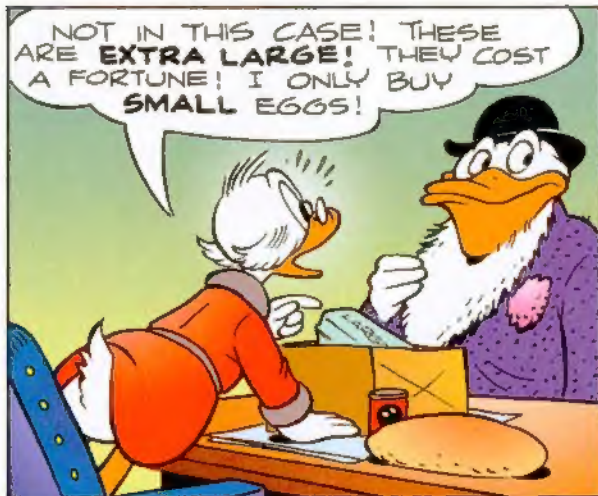
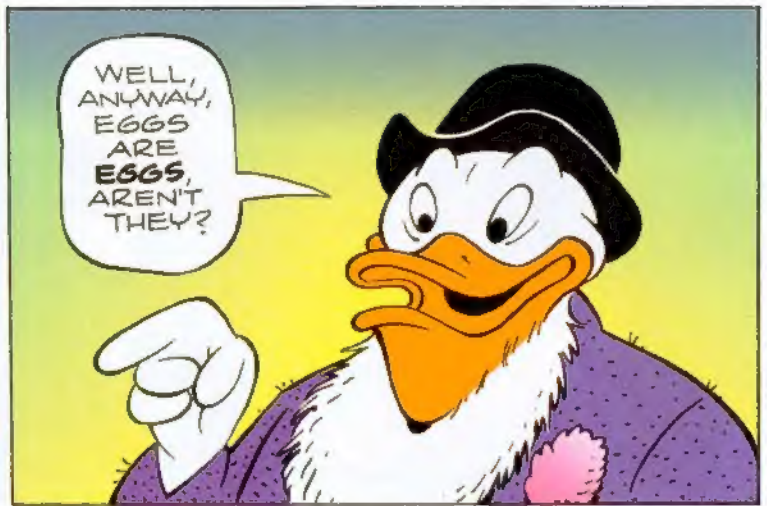
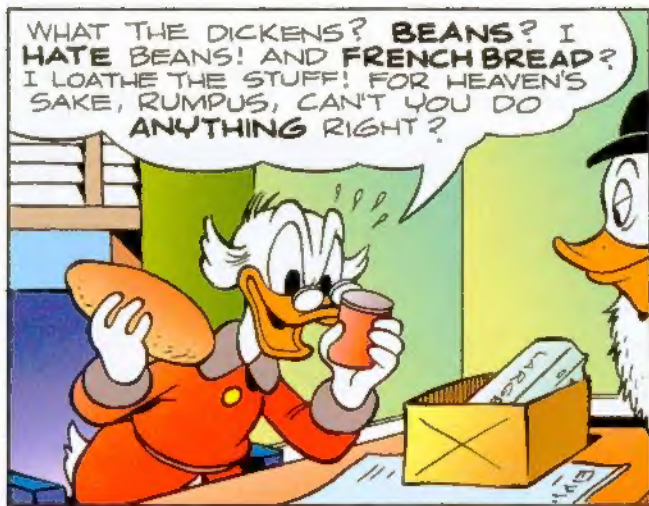
DONALD DUCK

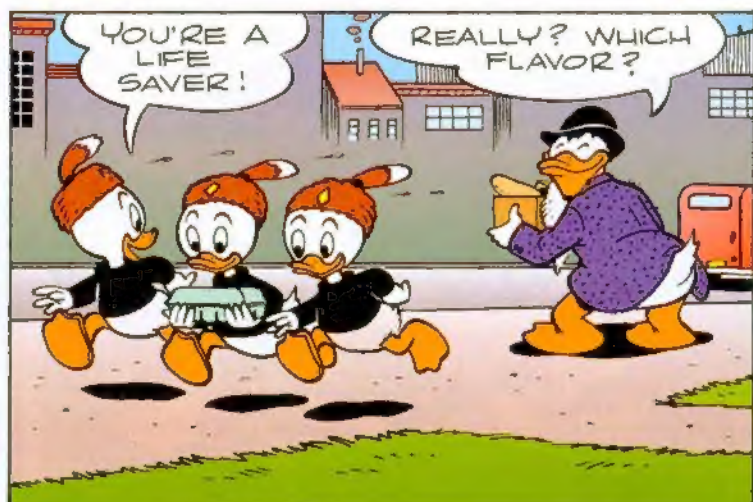
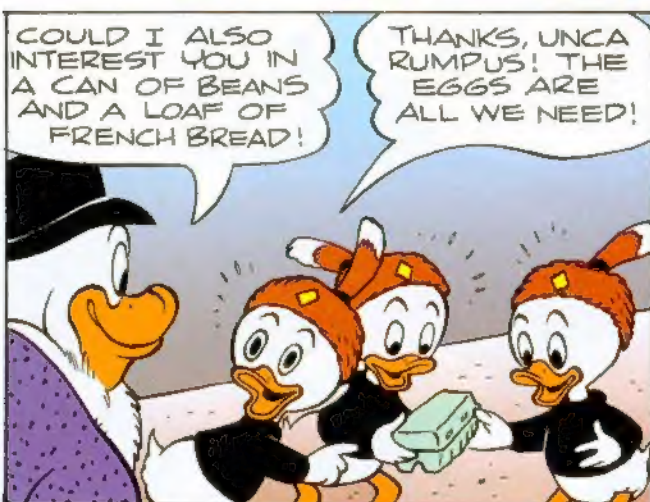
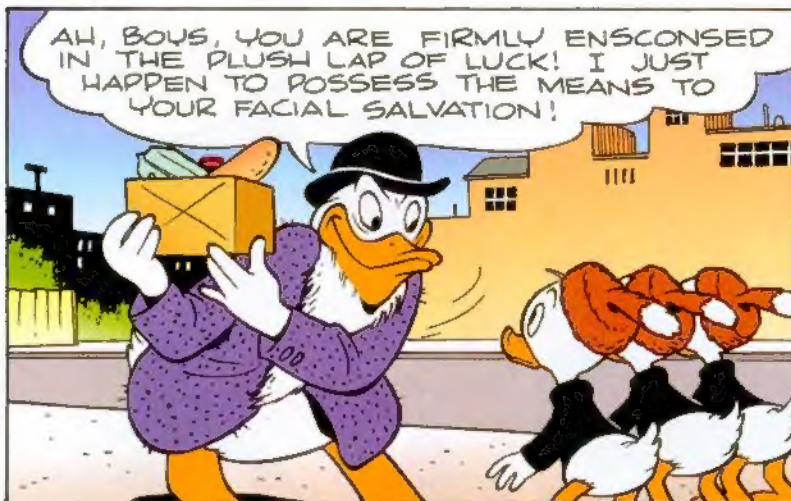
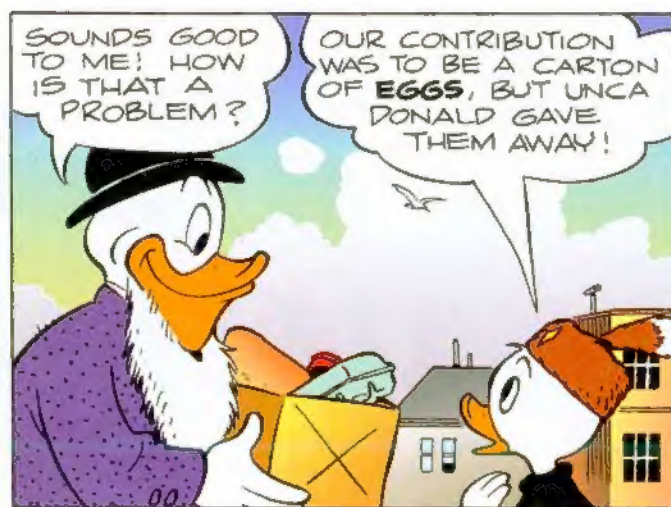
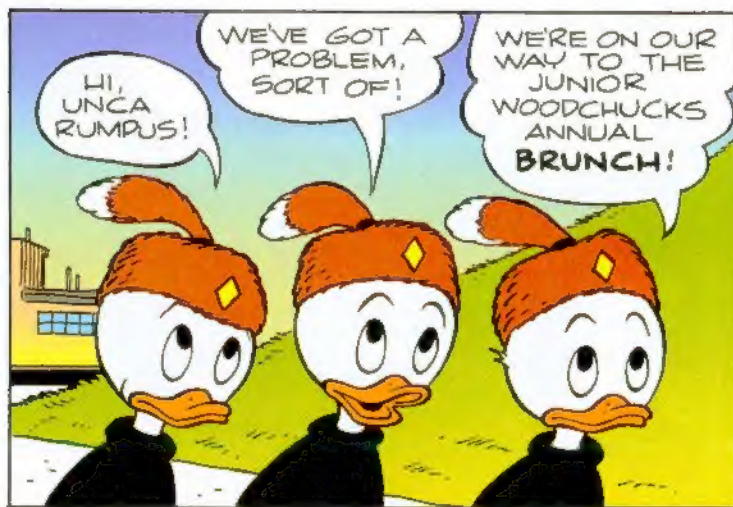
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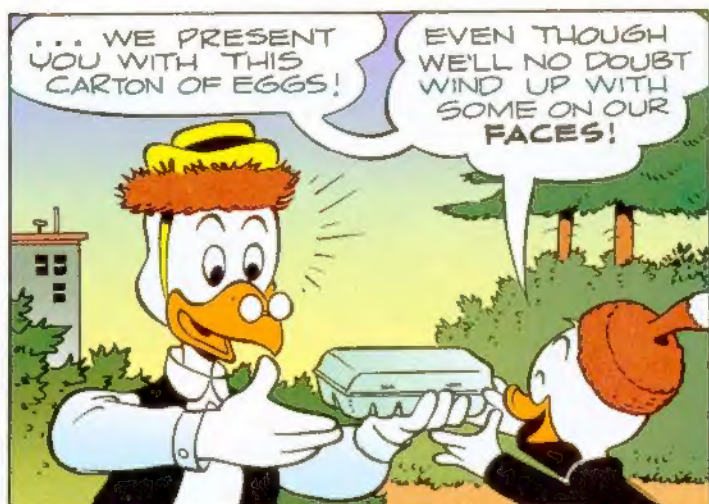
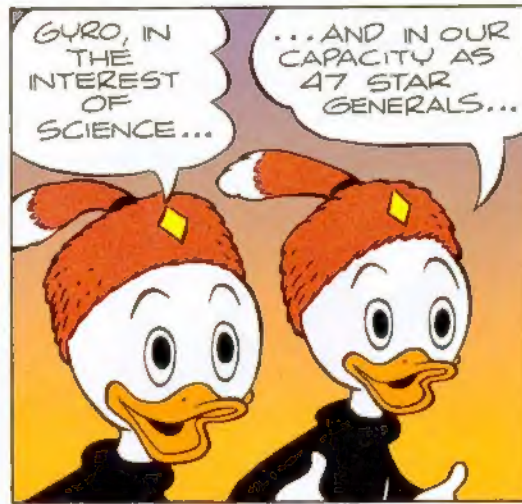
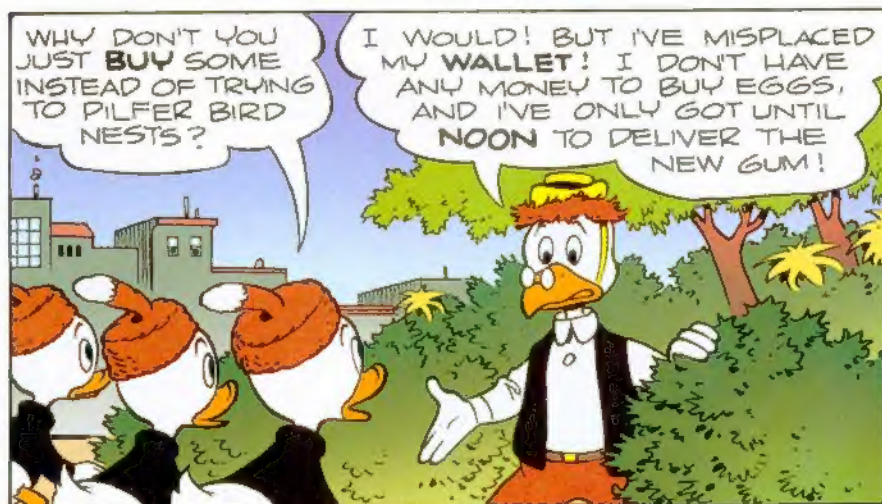
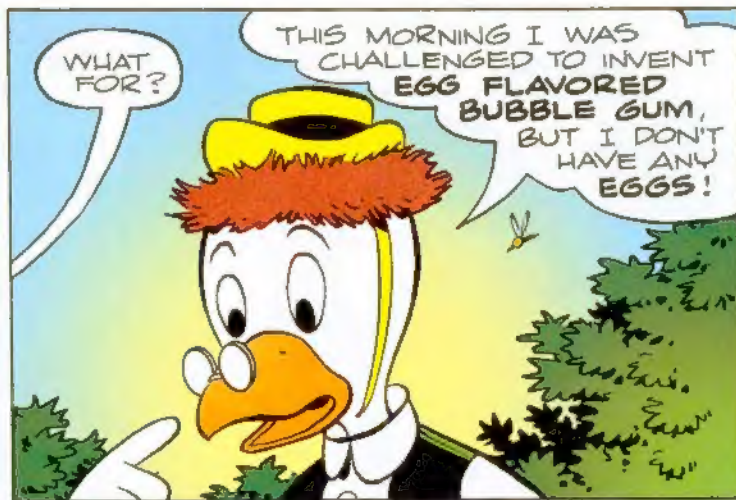
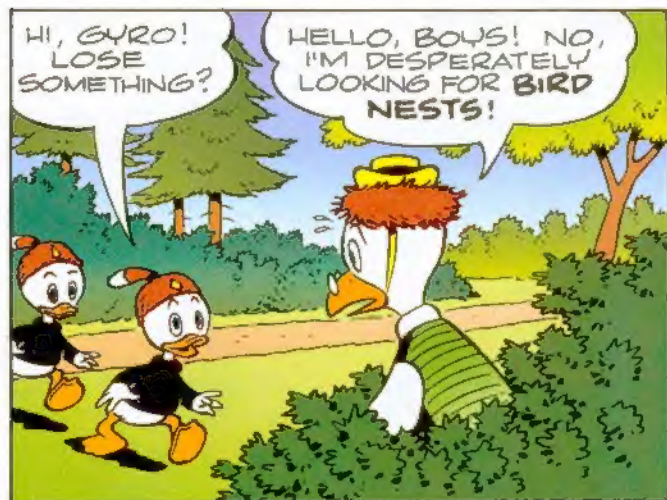


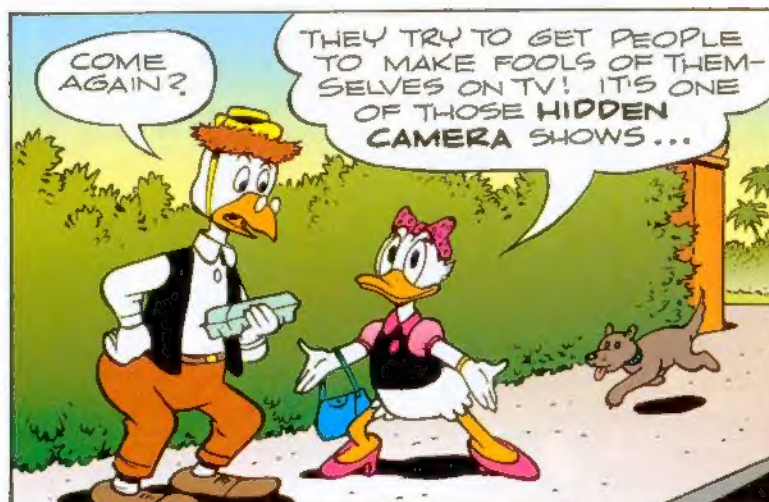
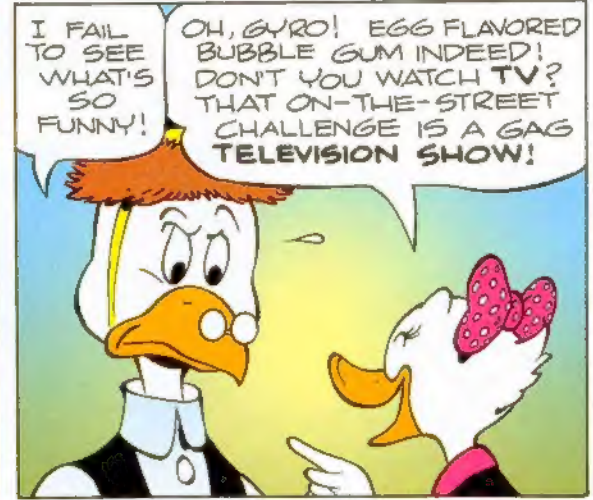
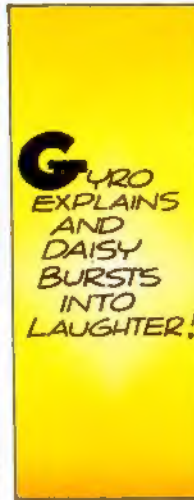
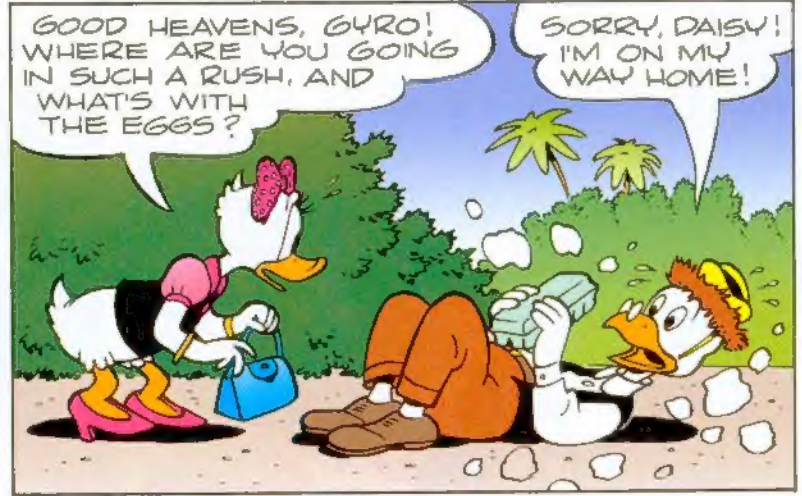
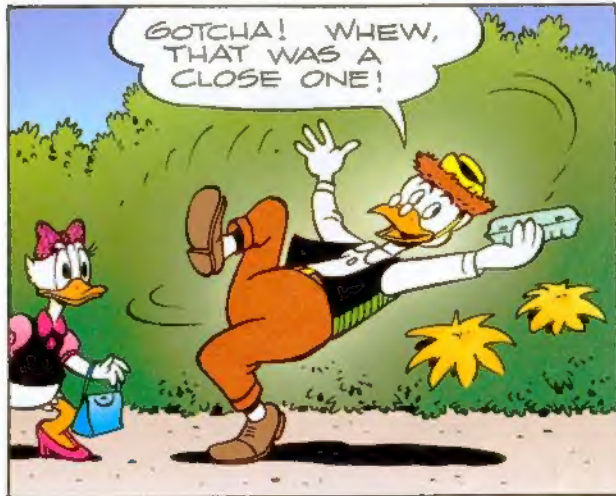
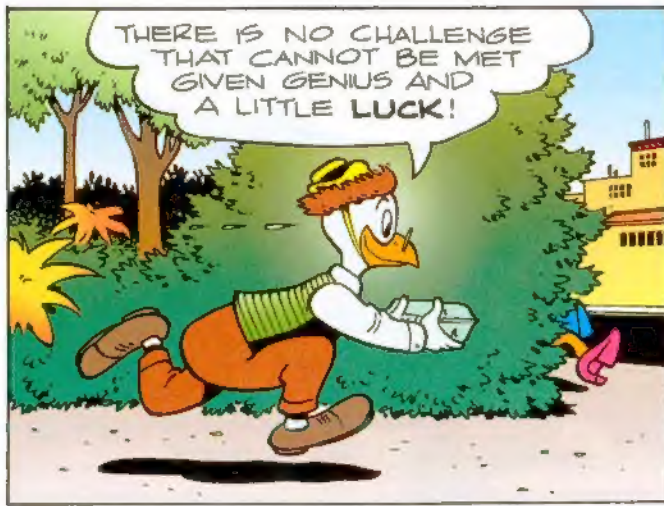


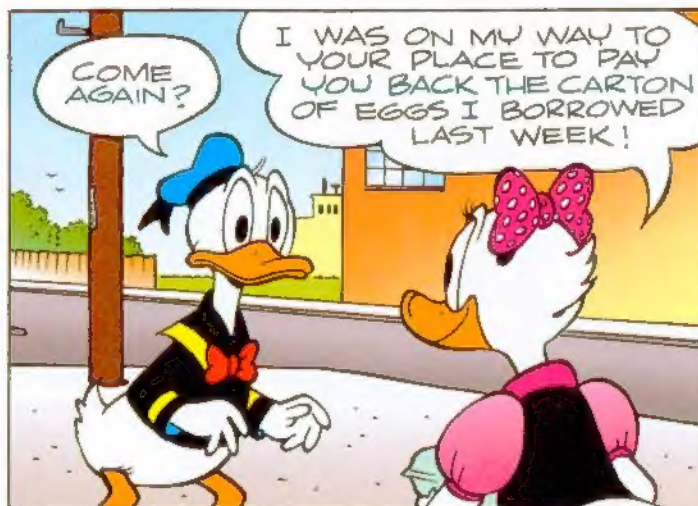
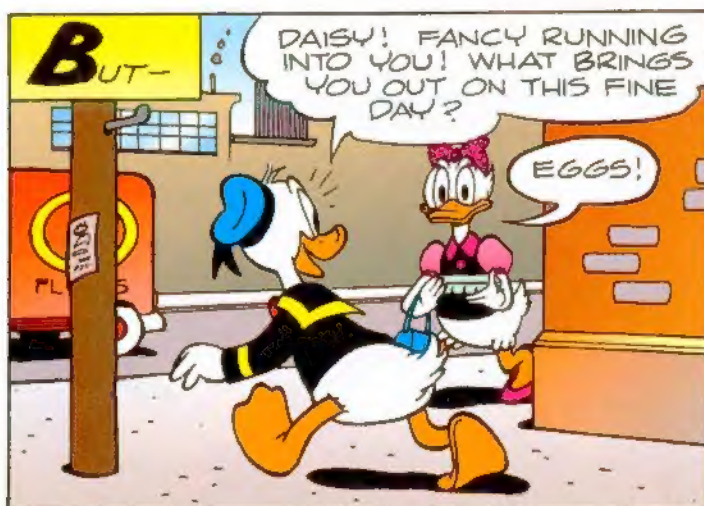
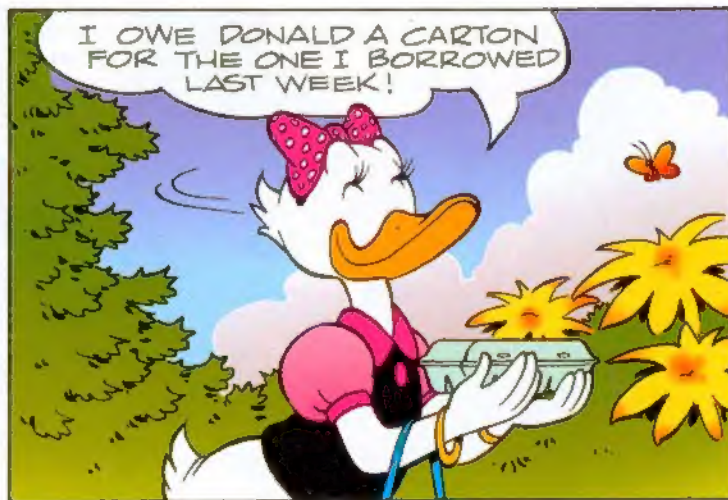
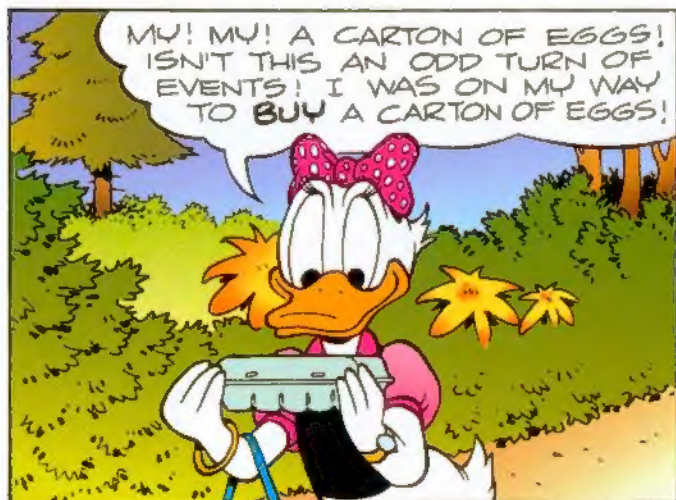
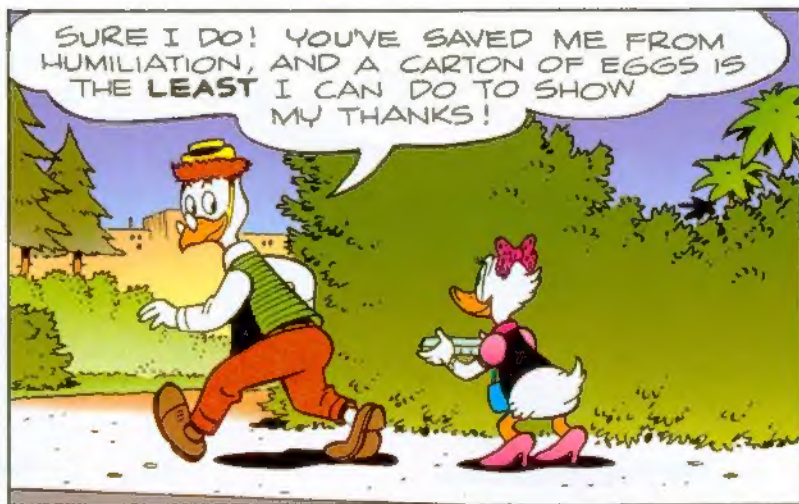
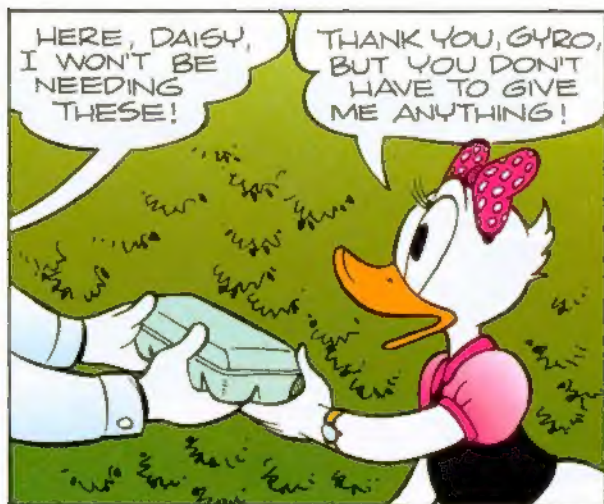


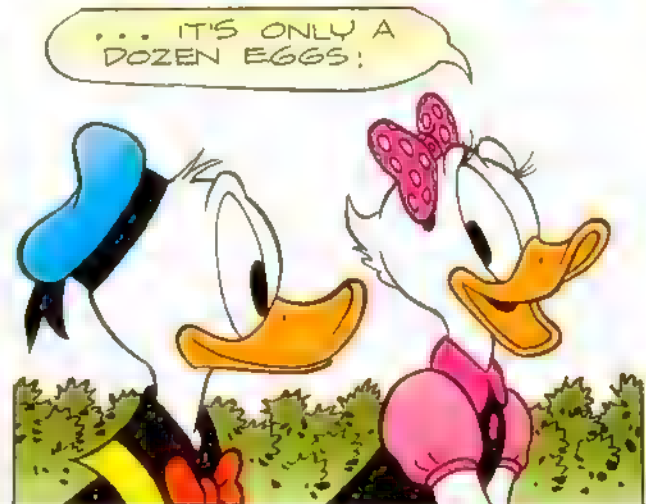
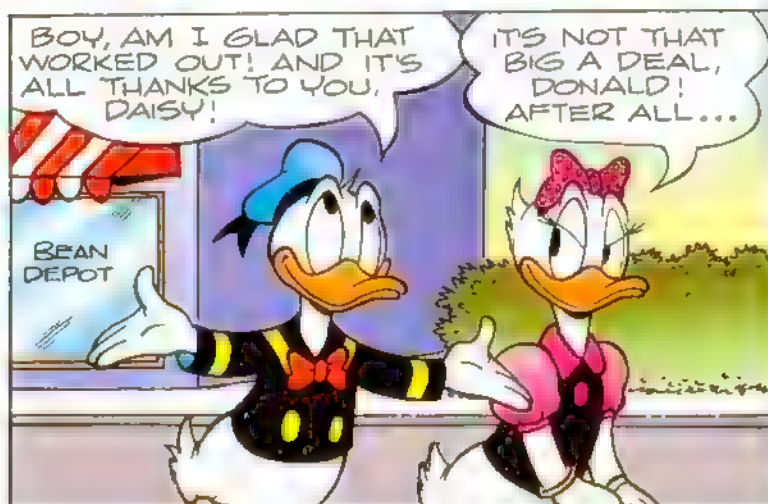
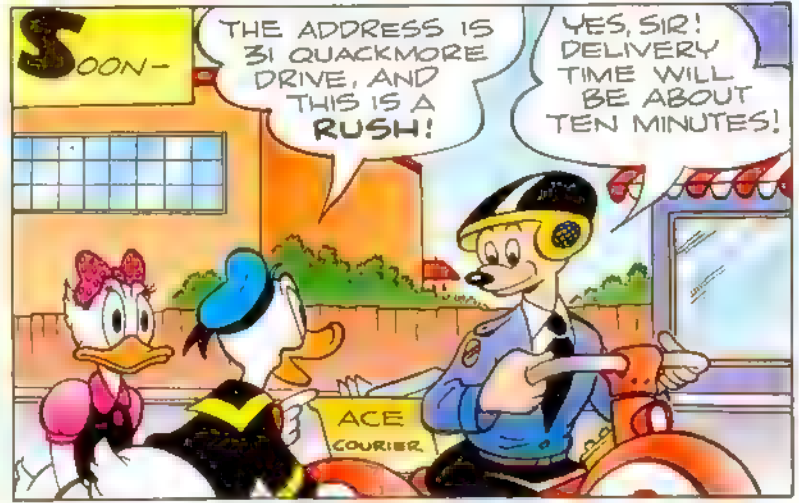
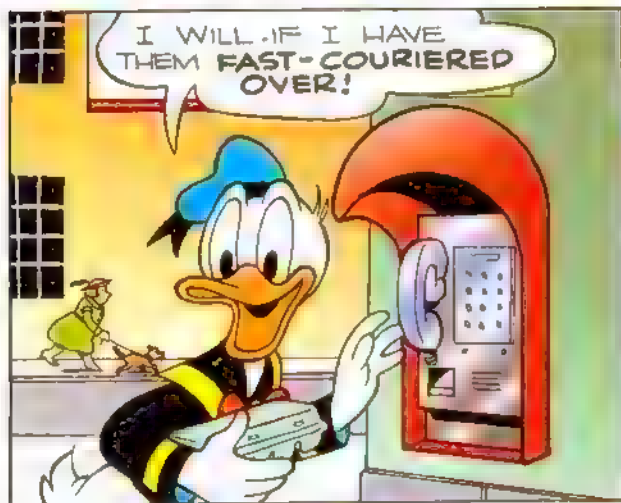
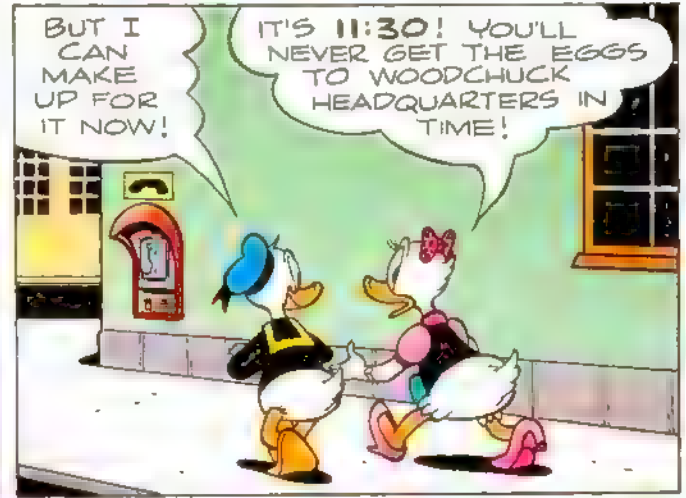
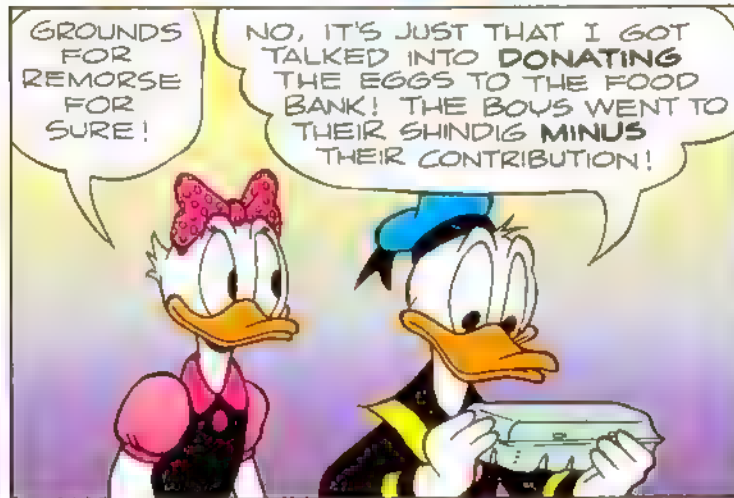
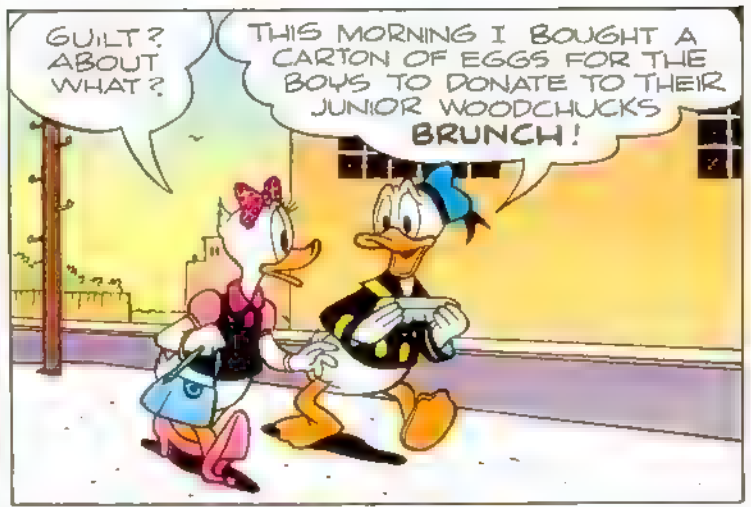
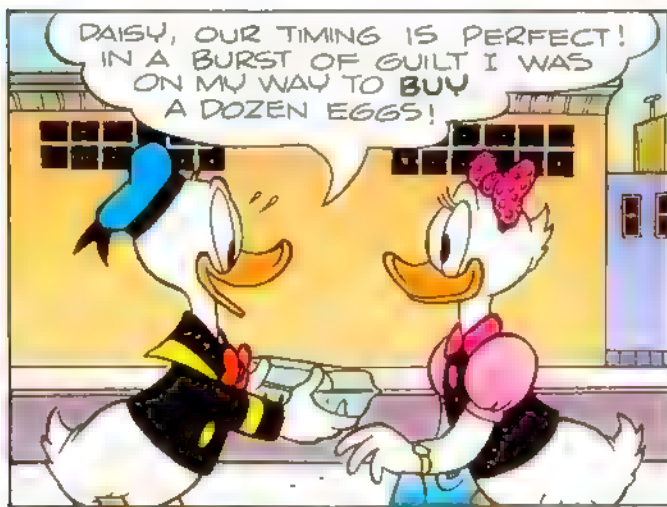




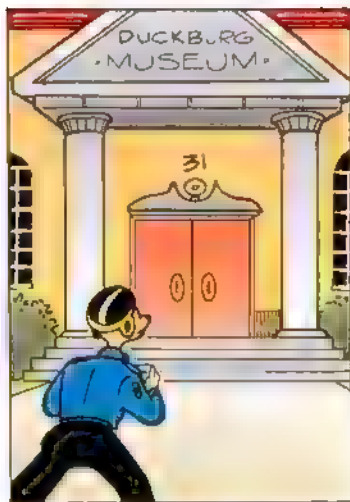








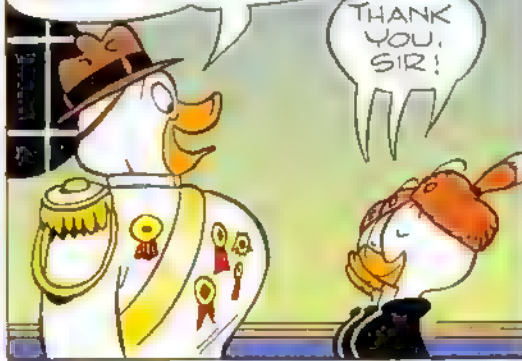
BUT ALAS, DONALD HAS MADE A SLIGHT, BUT NEVERTHELESS SIGNIFICANT MISTAKE! 31 QUACKMORE DRIVE IS THE ADDRESS OF THE DUCKBURG MUSEUM!



THE JUNIOR WOOD-CHUCKS HEAD-QUARTERS IS ACROSS THE STREET AT 30 QUACKMORE DRIVE!

DON'T WORRY, MEN! YOU DID THE RIGHT THING! THOSE EGGS ARE NOW DOING THEIR BIT FOR THE GOOD OF SOCIETY!

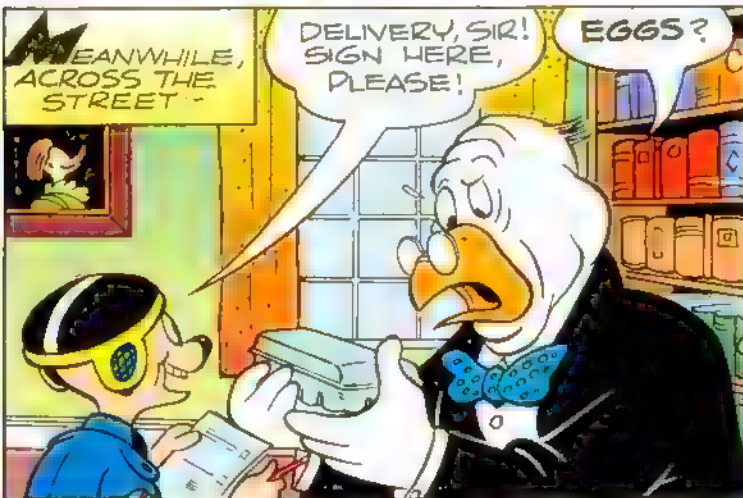
THANK YOU, SIR!



MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE STREET -

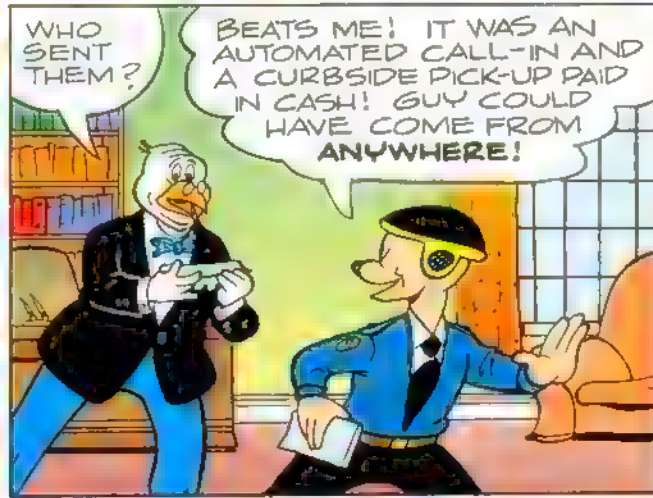
DELIVERY, SIR! SIGN HERE, PLEASE!

EGGS?

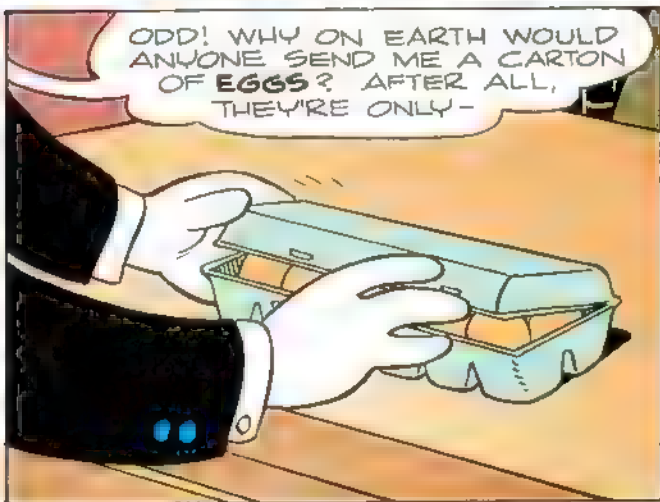


WHO SENT THEM?

BEATS ME! IT WAS AN AUTOMATED CALL-IN AND A CURBSIDE PICK-UP PAID IN CASH! GUY COULD HAVE COME FROM ANYWHERE!

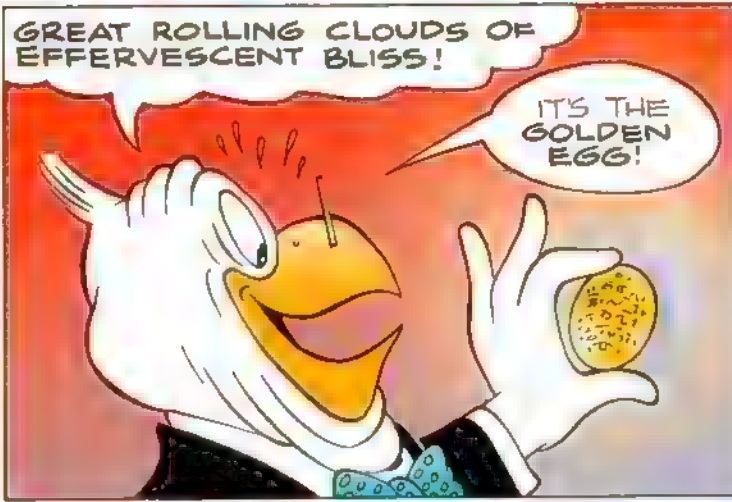


ODD! WHY ON EARTH WOULD ANYONE SEND ME A CARTON OF EGGS? AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY -



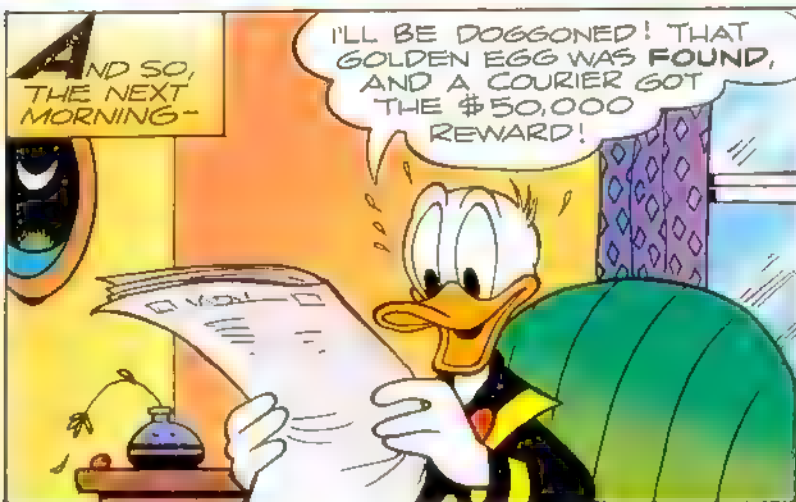
GREAT ROLLING CLOUDS OF EFFERVESCENT BLISS!

IT'S THE GOLDEN EGG!

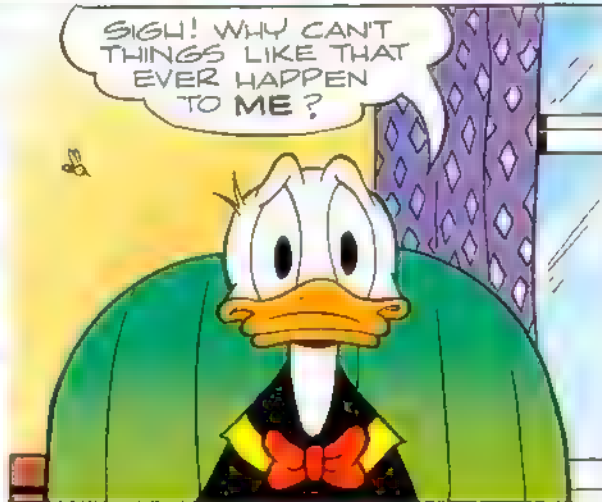


AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING -

I'LL BE DOGGONED! THAT GOLDEN EGG WAS FOUND, AND A COURIER GOT THE \$50,000 REWARD!



SIGH! WHY CAN'T THINGS LIKE THAT EVER HAPPEN TO ME?



WALT Disney's **GOOFY** in **SLEEP TIGHT**

GOOFY THINKS IT'S TIME HE SHARPENED UP HIS BRAIN—

AND IF YOU TAKE ONE OF MY SUPER BRAIN-IMPROVING PILLS EVERY NIGHT, YOU TOO WILL BECOME A GENIUS!

GAWRSH! THOSE ARE THE PILLS FOR ME!

HERE! TAKE MY MONEY!

BUY DR. BRIGHT'S GENIUS PILLS!

D 97615

THE AMAZING ELECTRONS IN MY PILLS WILL ENERGIZE YOUR BRAINS AS NEVER BEFORE!

THAT NIGHT—

WELL, HERE GOES! BODY, GET READY TO SLEEP! BRAIN, GET READY TO BE SUPER-CHARGED!

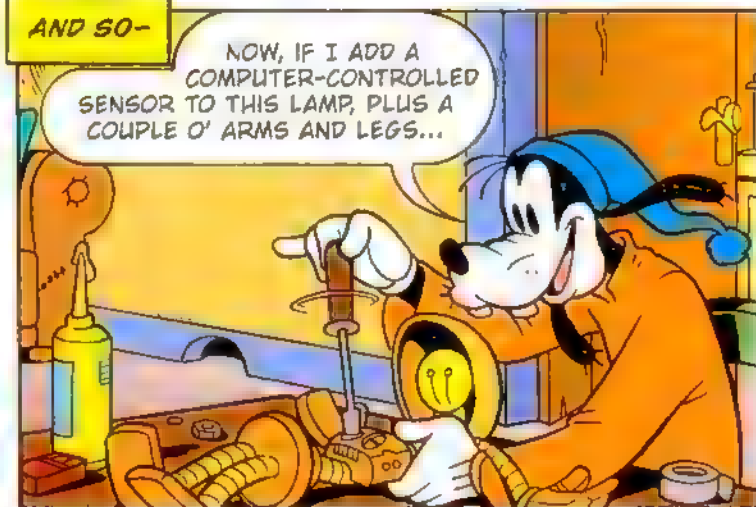
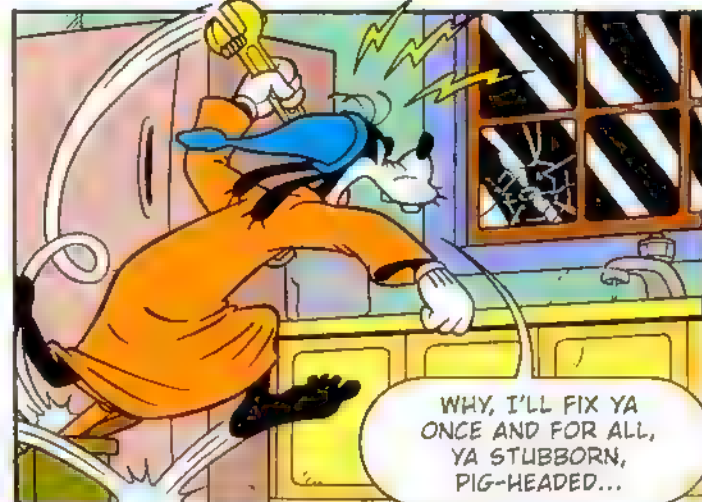
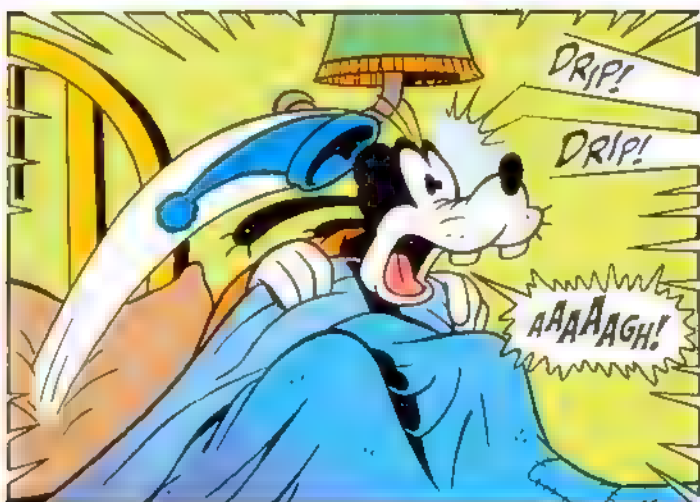
DURN! HOW CAN I SLEEP WITH THAT TAP DRIPPIN'?

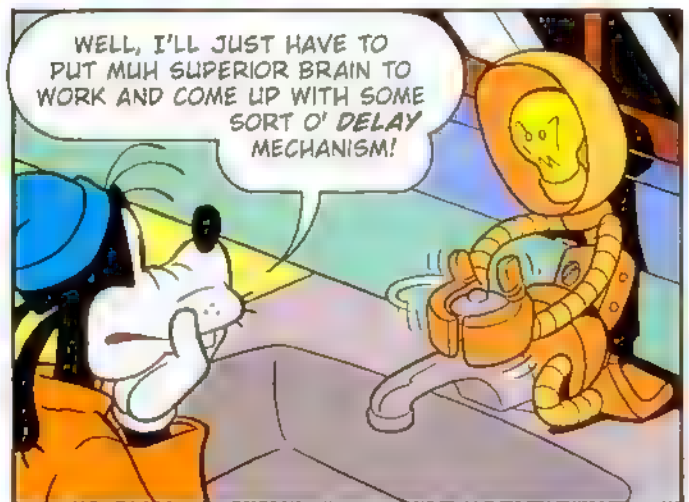
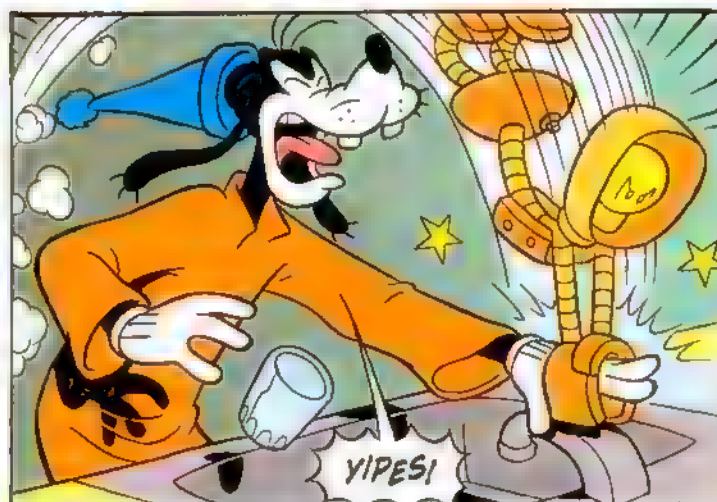
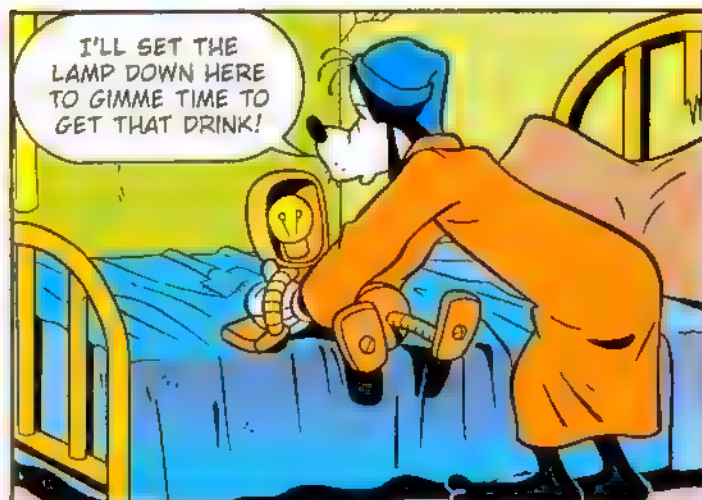
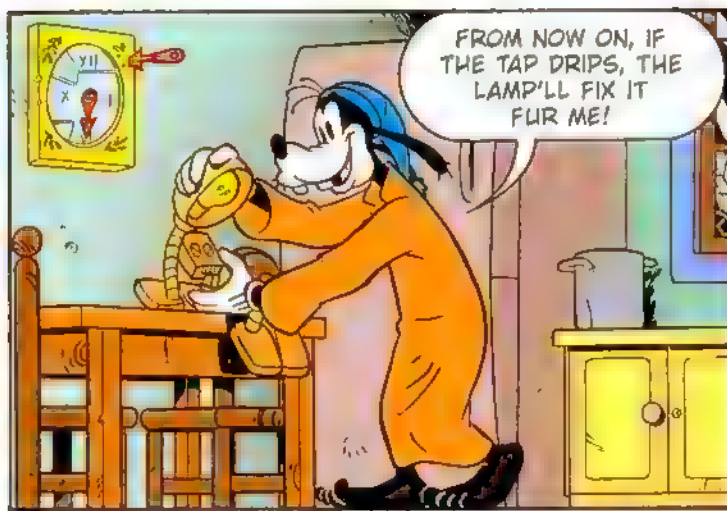
DRIP!

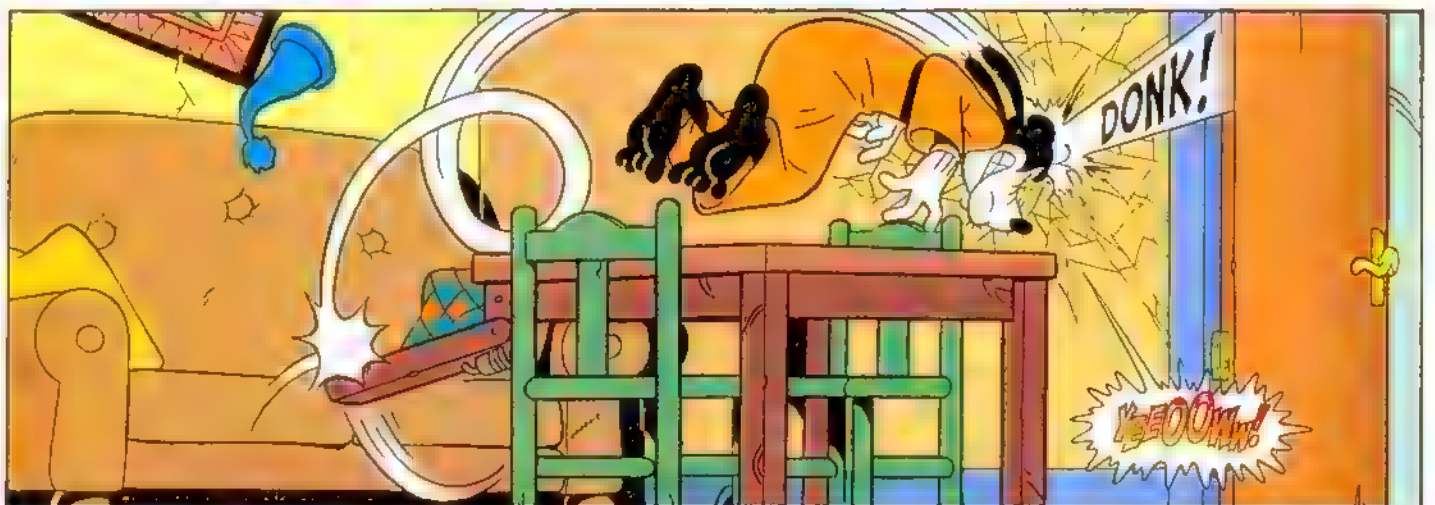
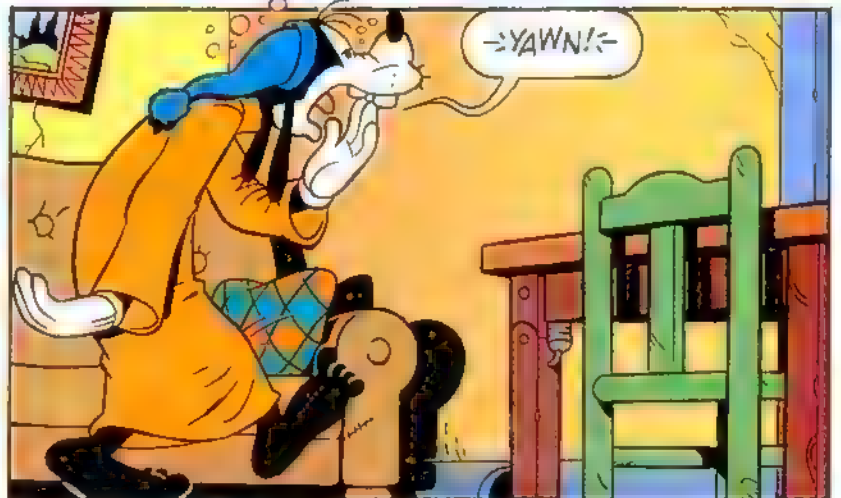
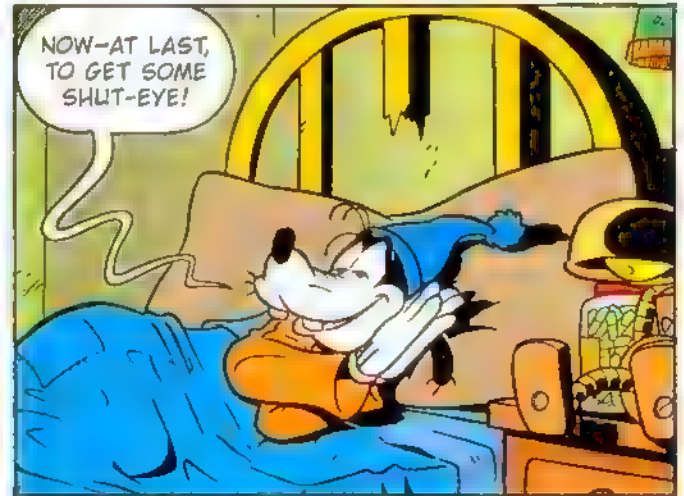
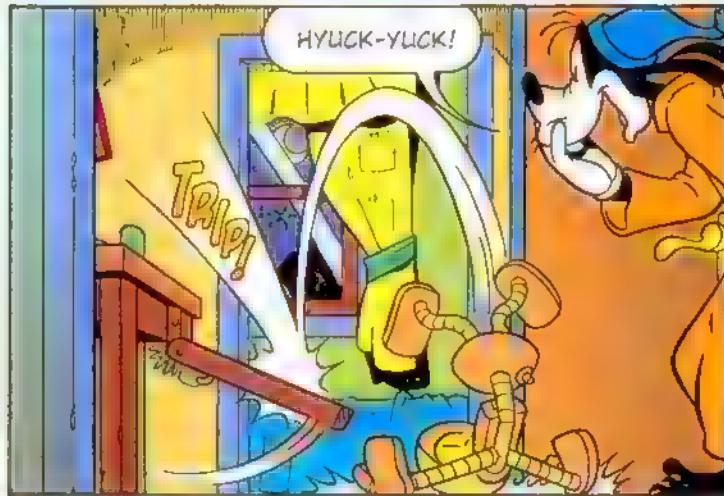
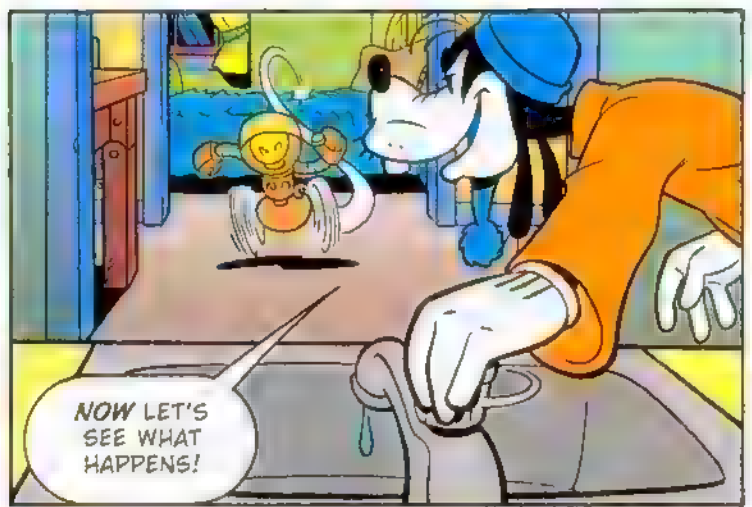
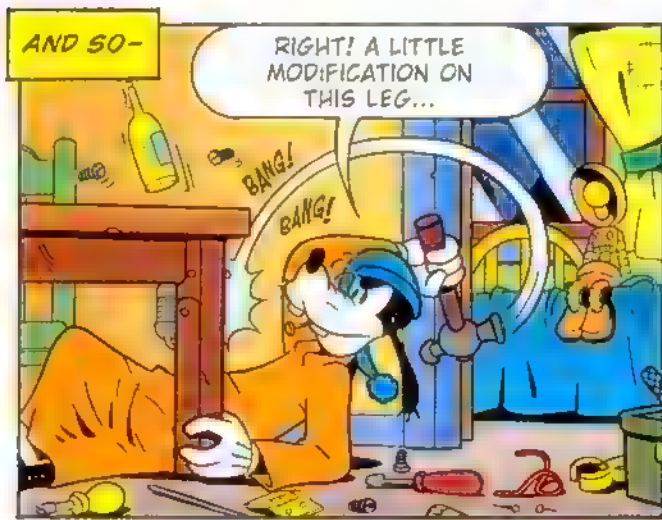
DRIP!

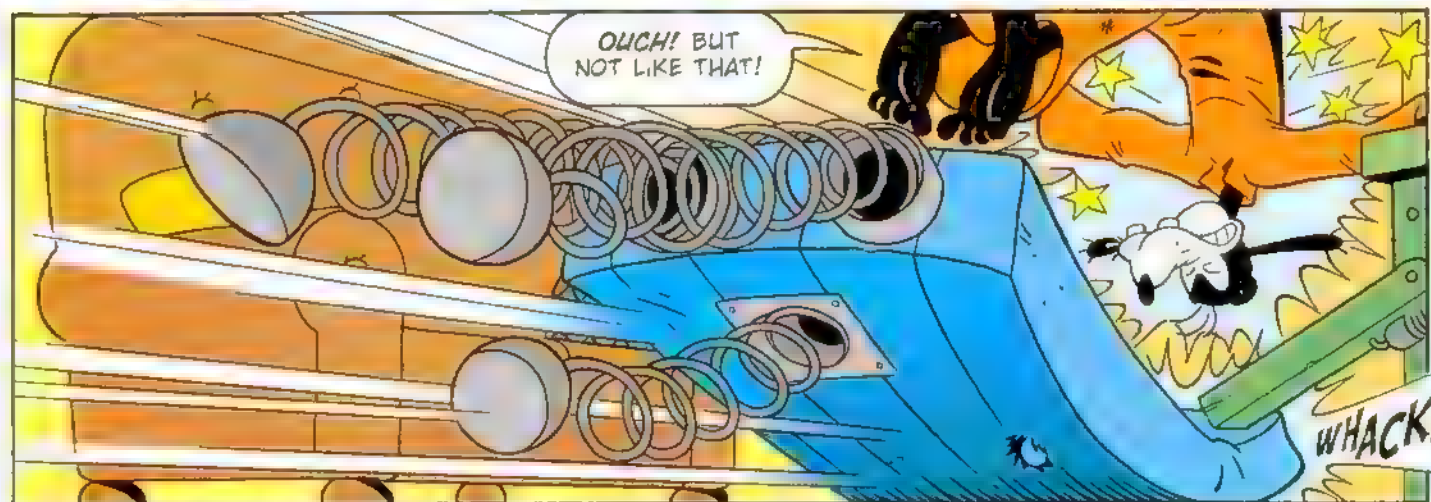
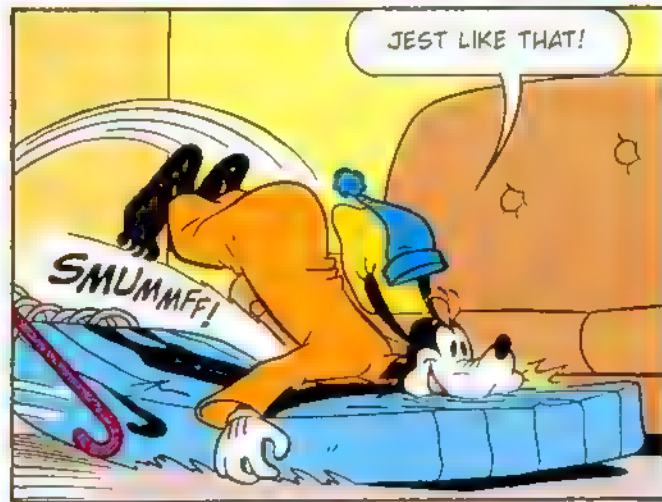
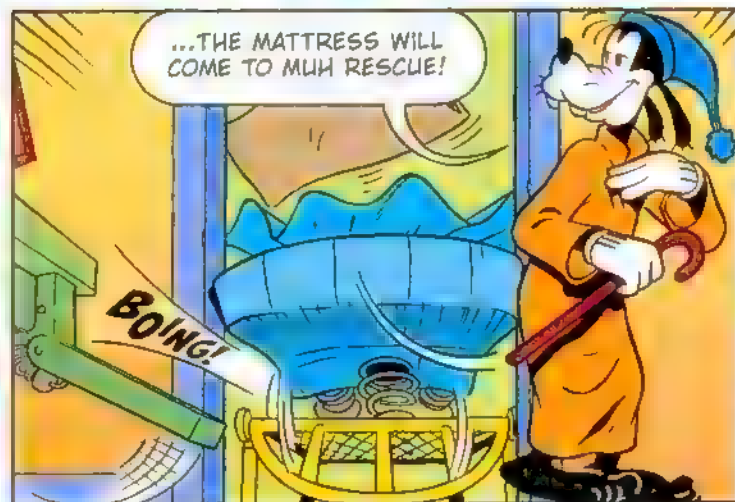
YUP! THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF IT!

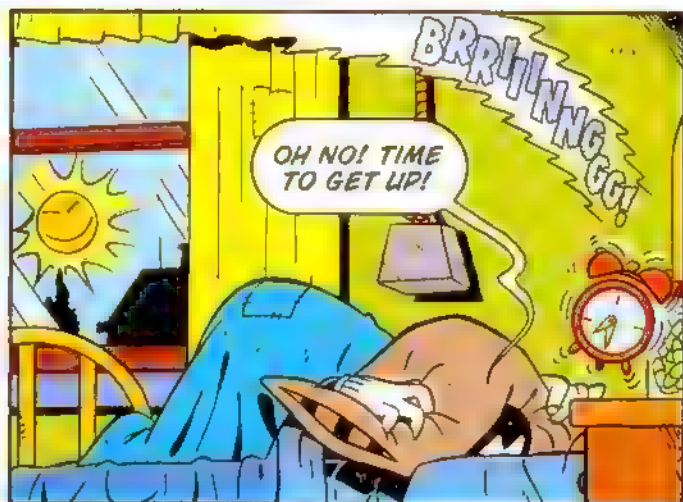
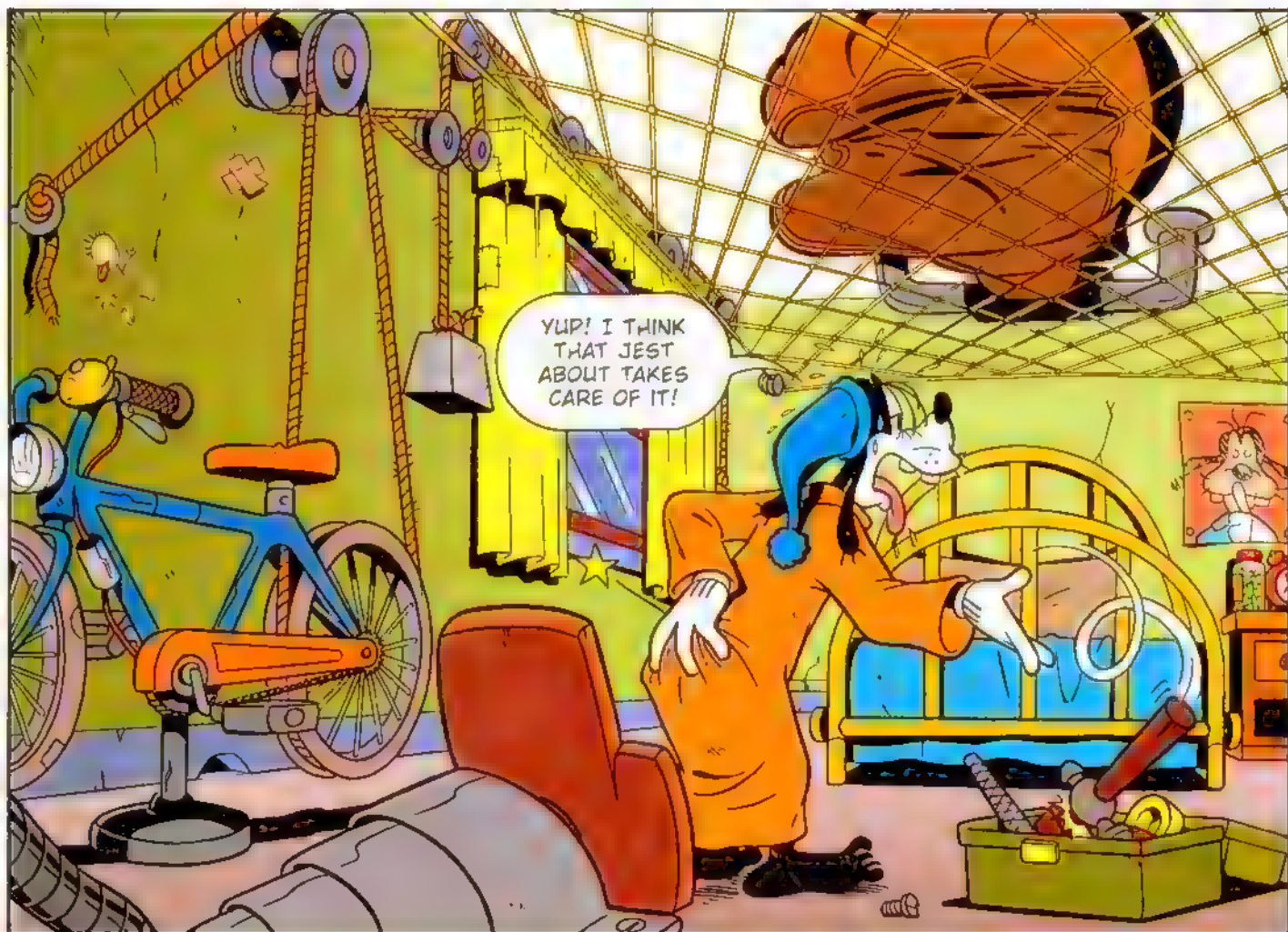
SQUIGG!



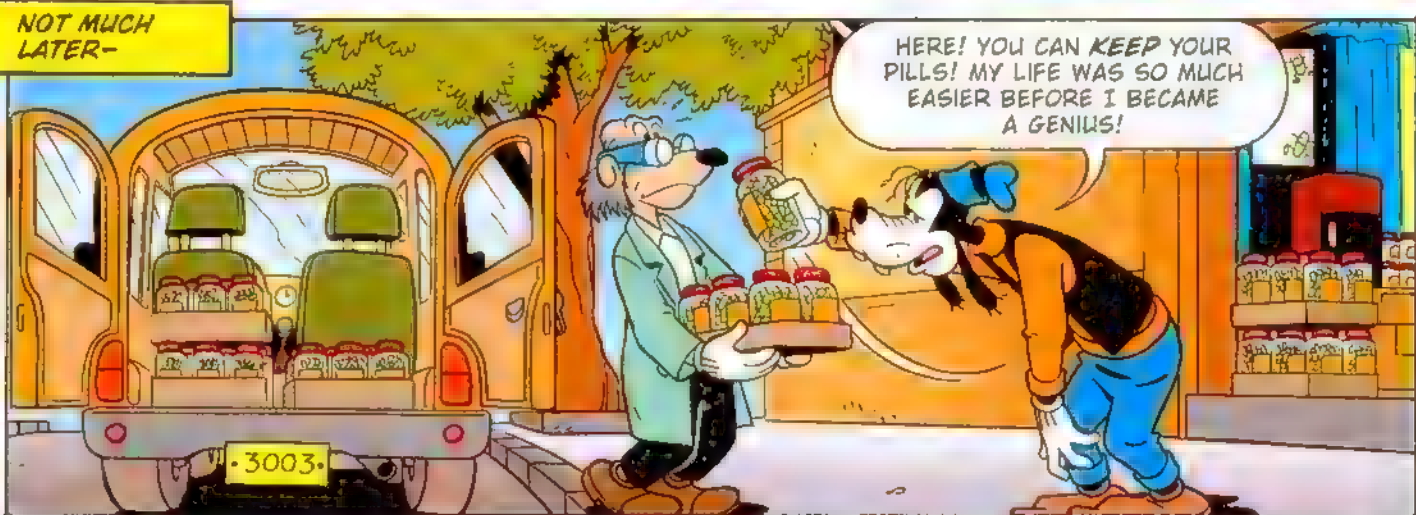








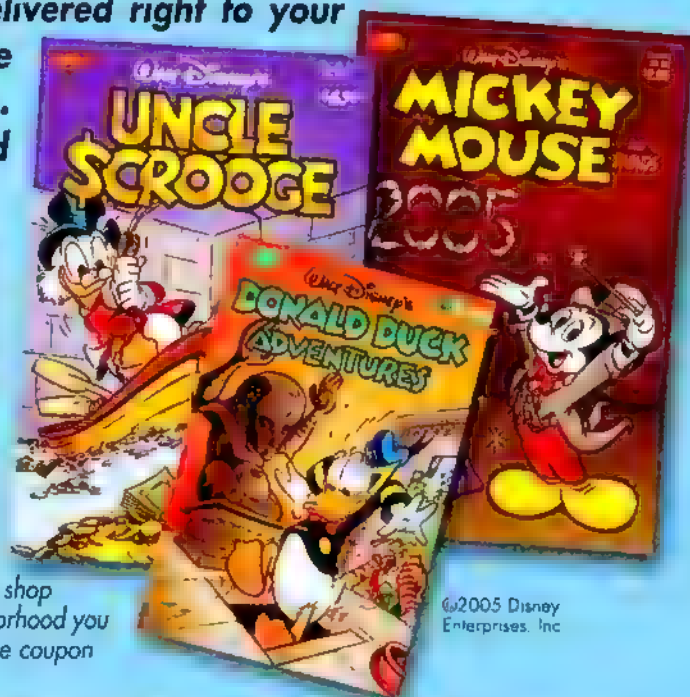
NOT MUCH LATER-



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**THEY'RE
COMING!**

AUGUST, 2005

Walt Disney's
Huey, Dewey & Louie

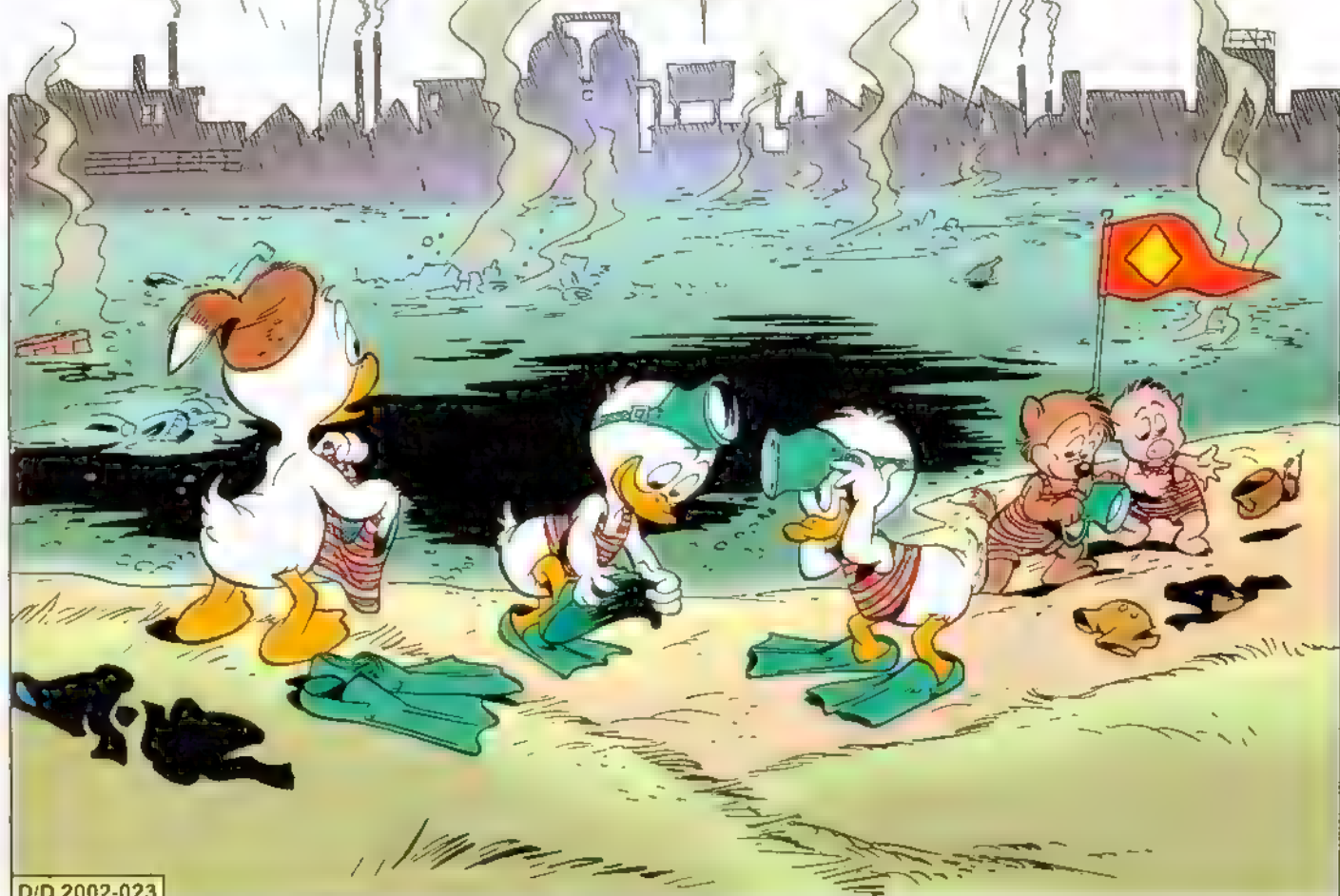
BE LEERY OF LAKE EERIE

THE MURKY WATERS OF LAKE EERIE LOOK VERY OMINOUS THIS DAY AS THE JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS GATHER FOR THEIR DAILY SWIM—

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LAKE LOOK SO ROILY, GENERAL HUEY!

AW, IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE *FERMENTING SAUER-KRAUT*, GENERAL DEWEY!

SOMETIMES THE BOTTOM SLUDGE ERUPTS FROM MIASMIC GASES! DON'T LET IT SPOIL OUR FUN!

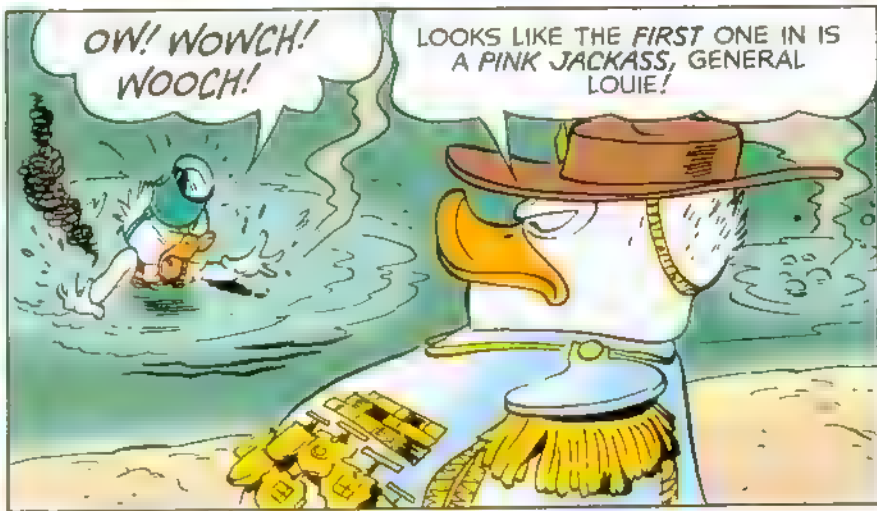


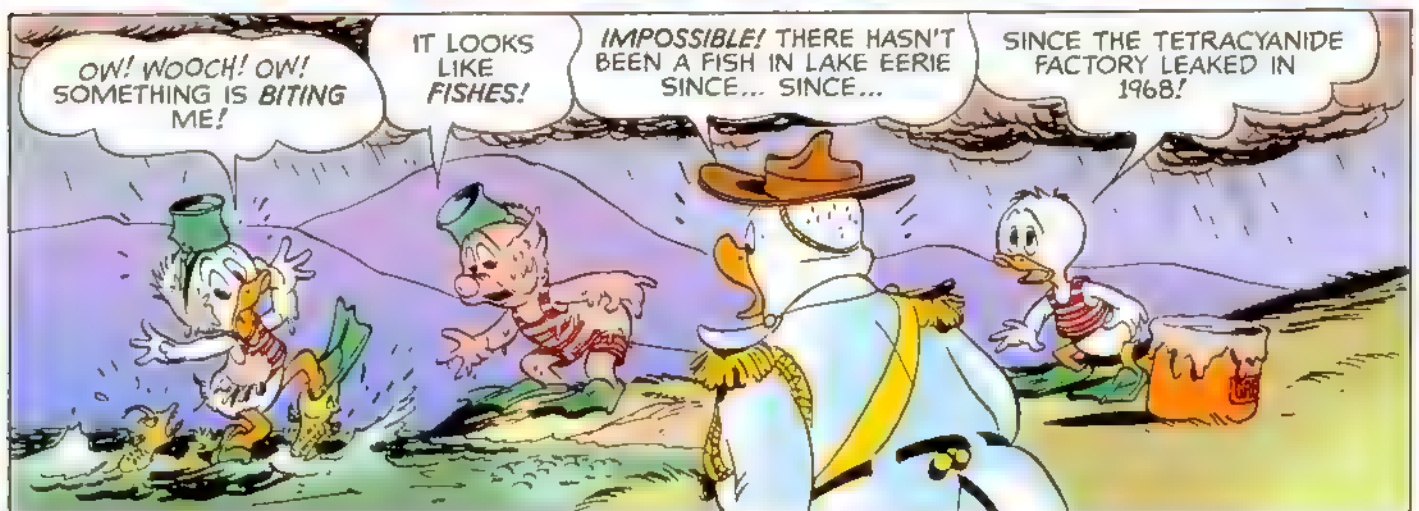
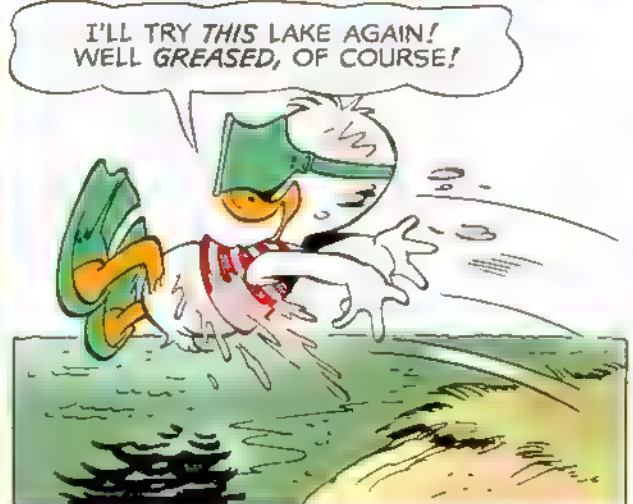
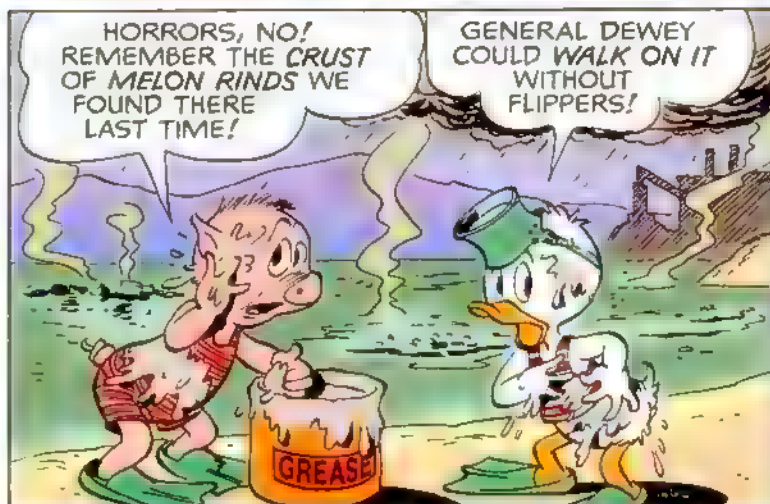
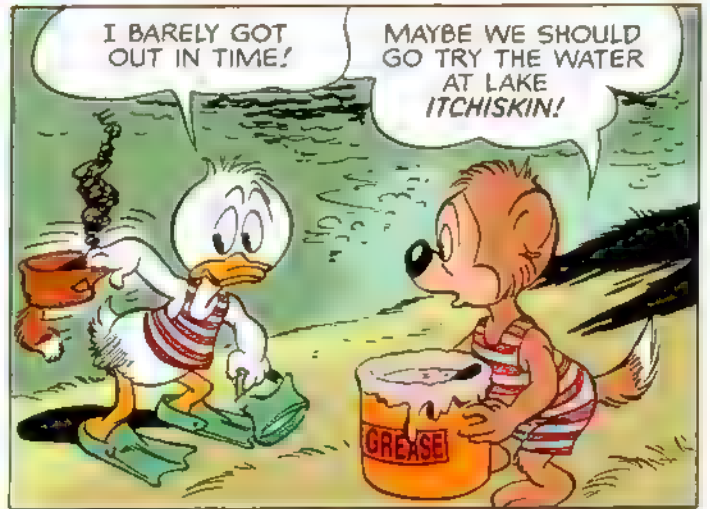
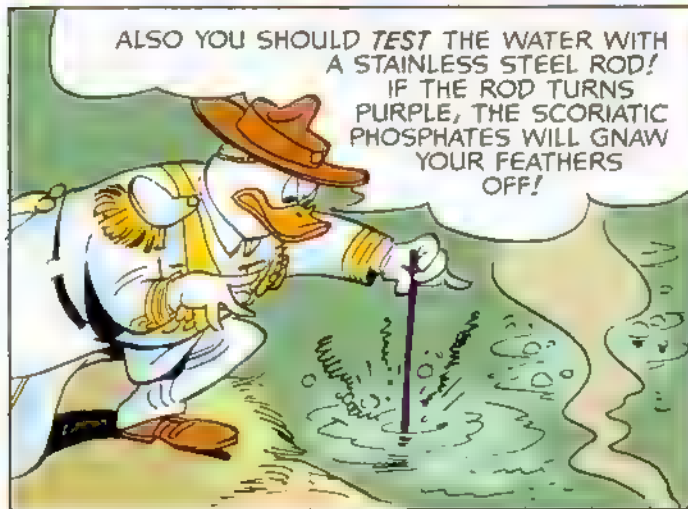
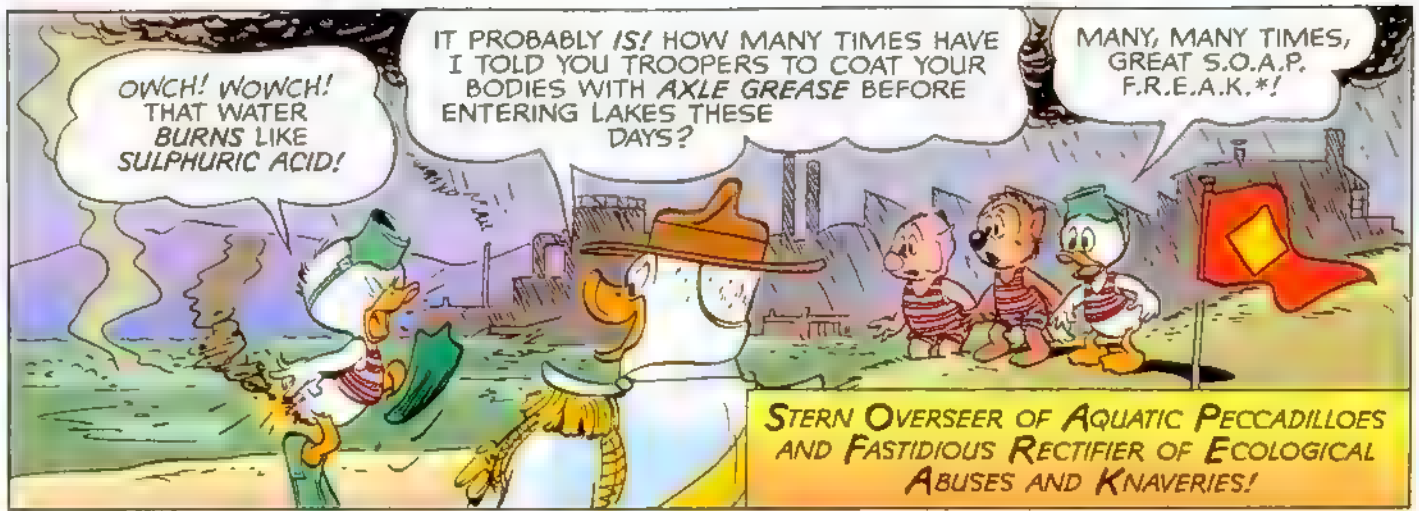
D/D 2002-023

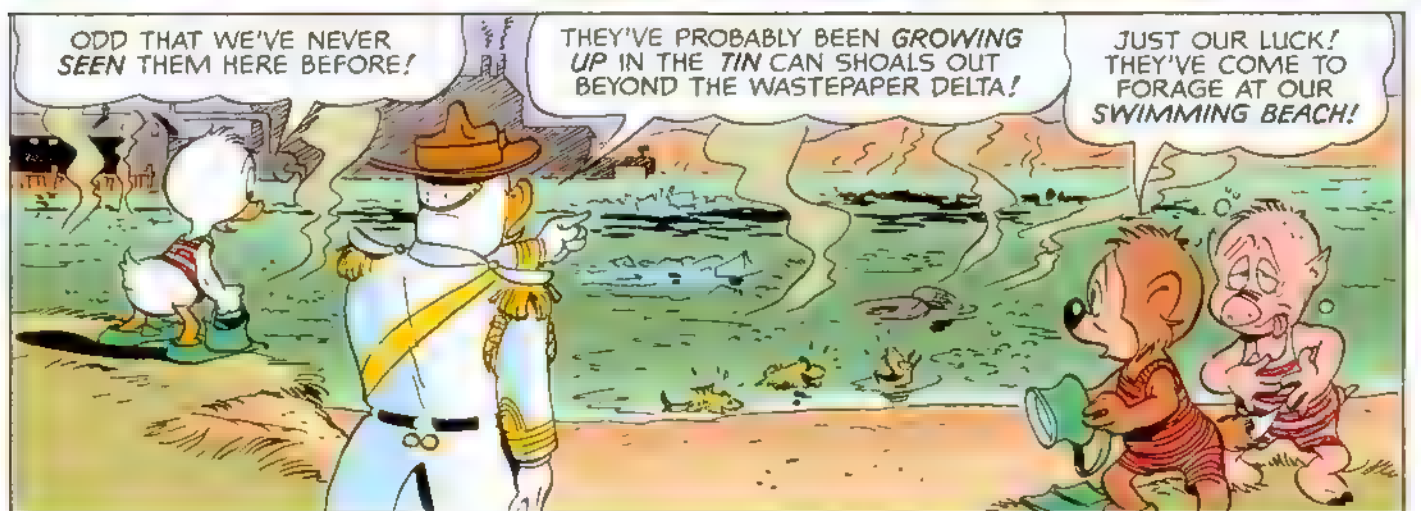
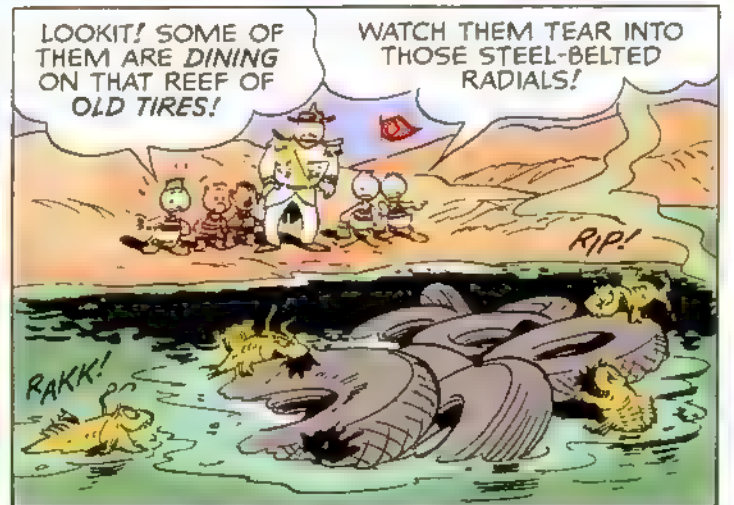
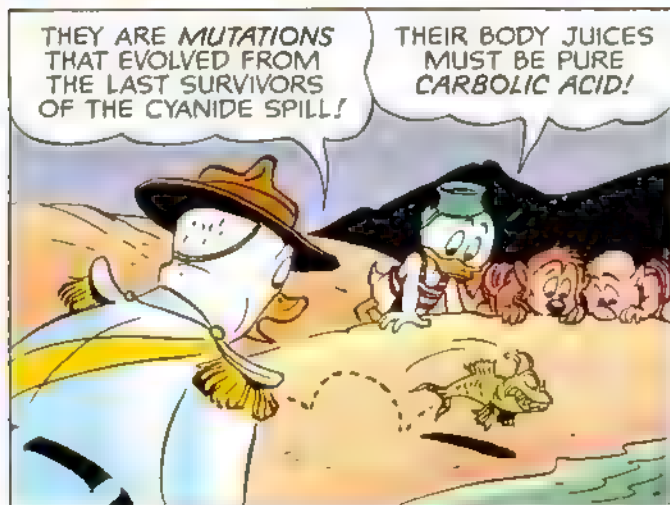
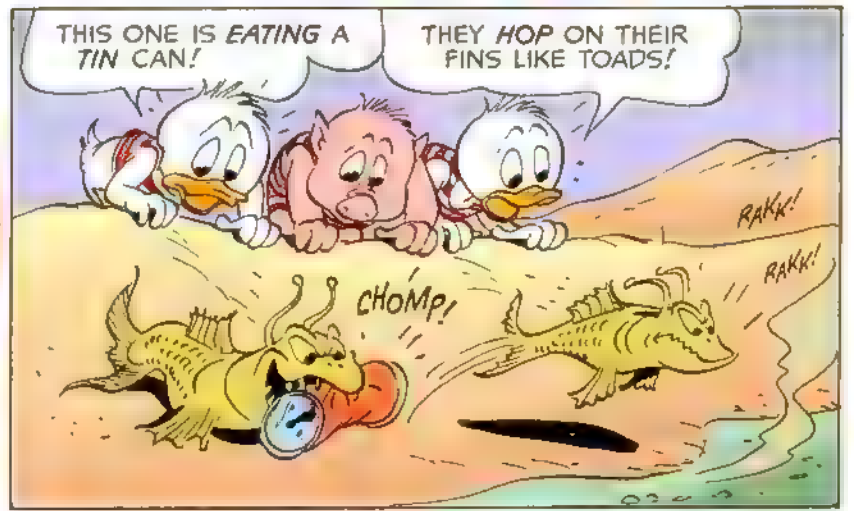
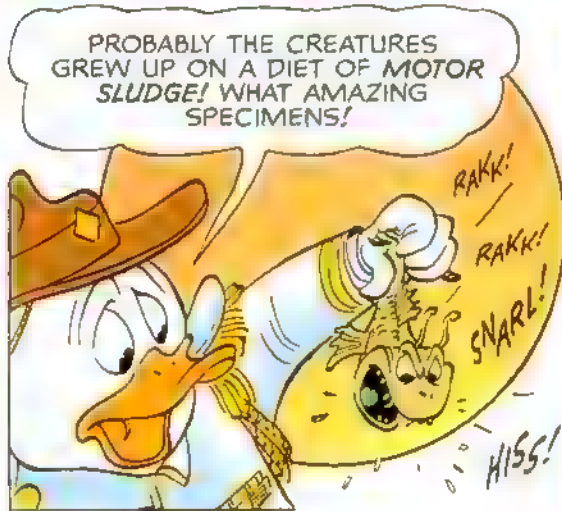
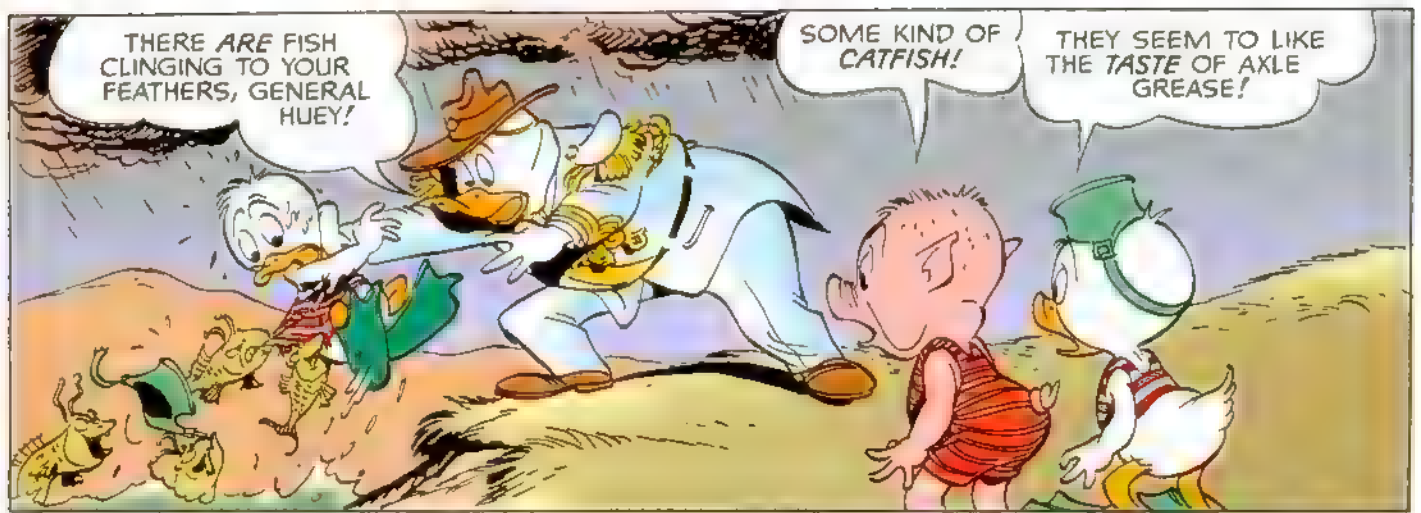
LAST ONE IN IS A PINK BABOON!

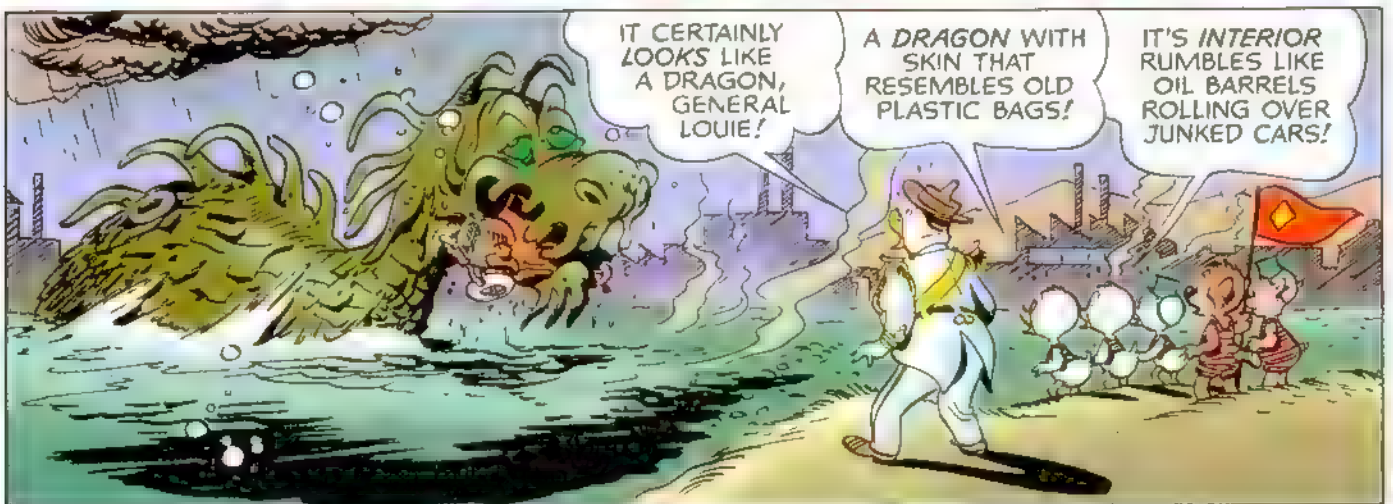
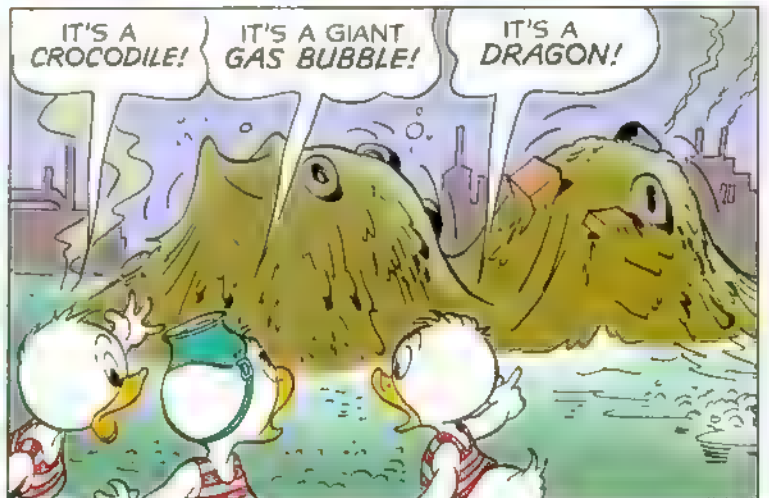
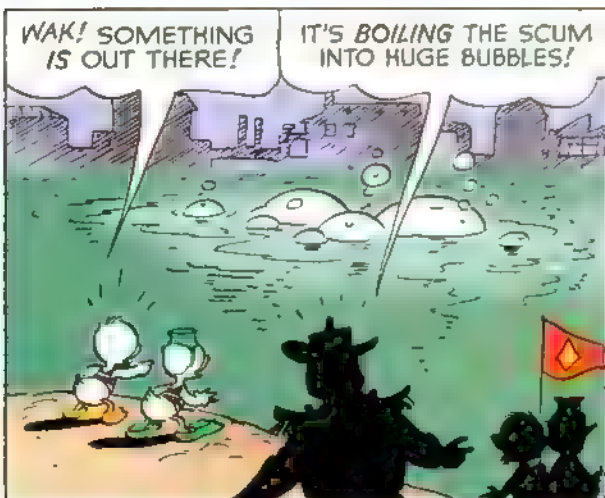
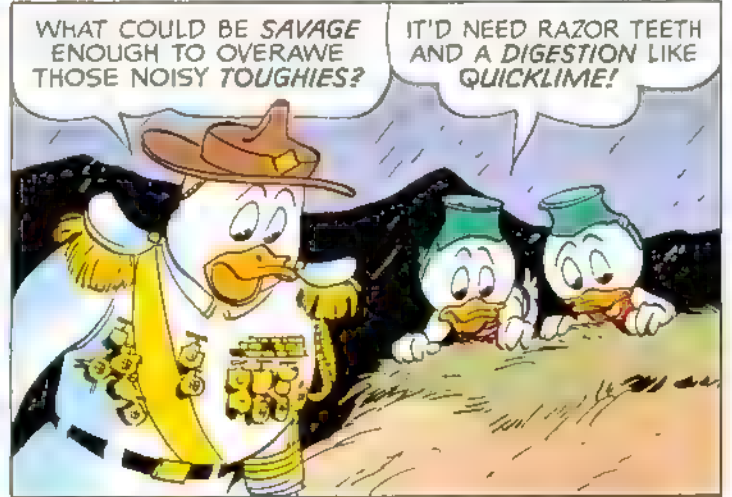
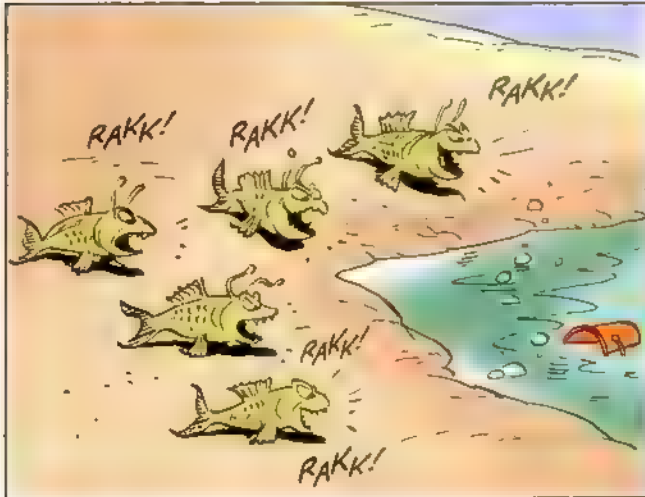
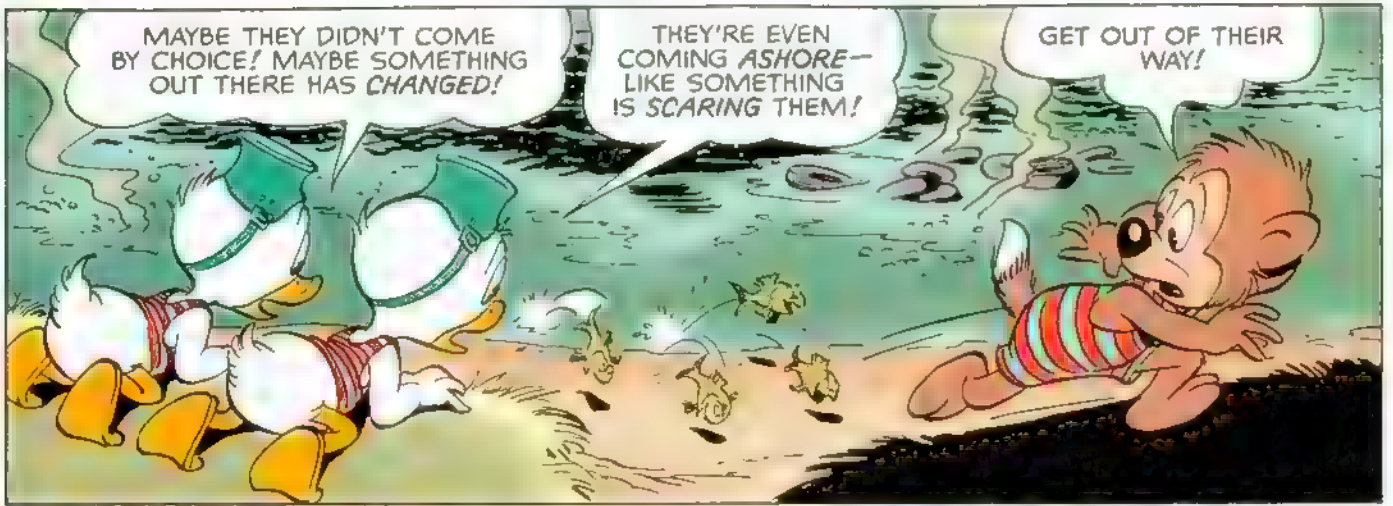
OW! WOWCH! WOCH!

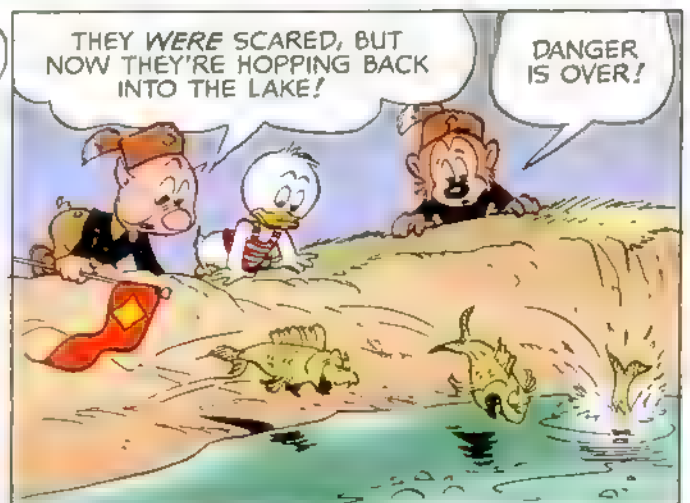
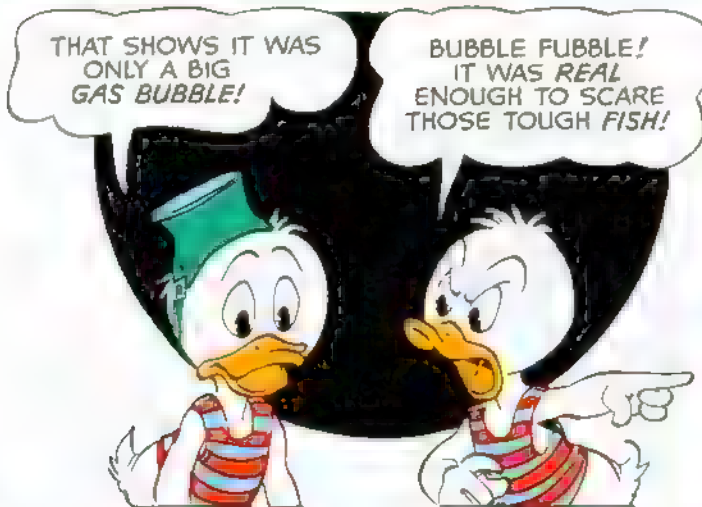
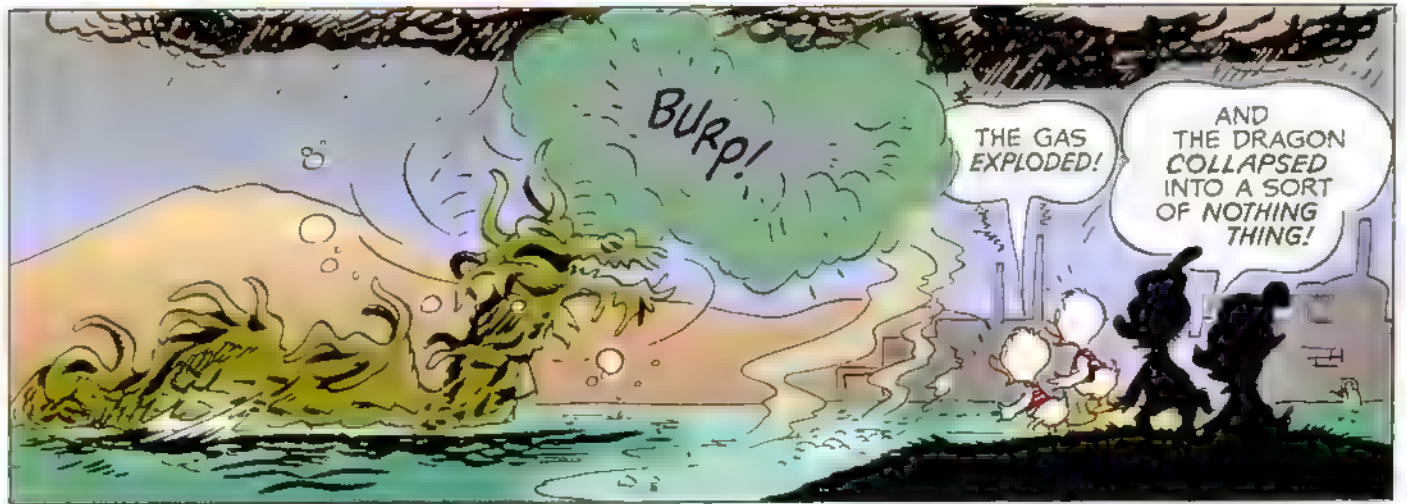
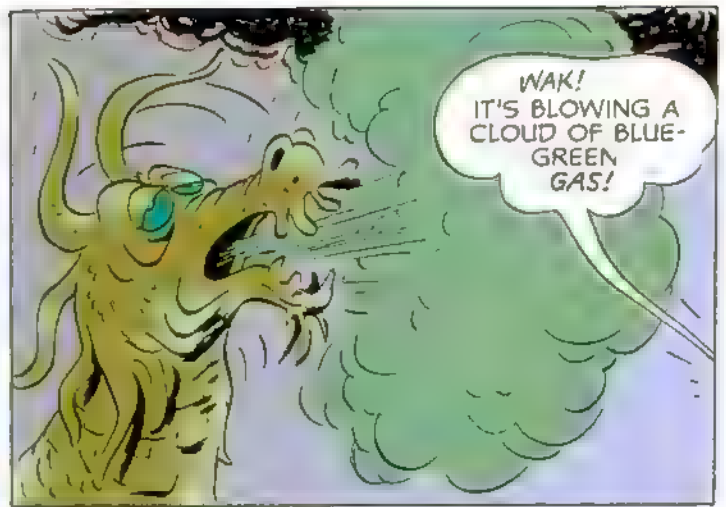
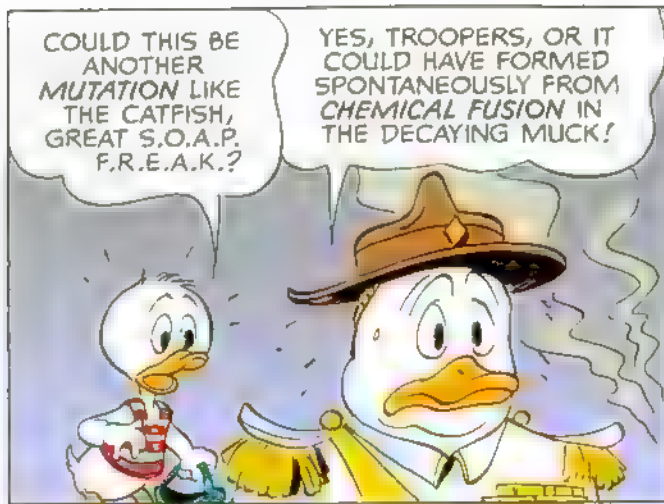
LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST ONE IN IS A PINK JACKASS, GENERAL LOUIE!

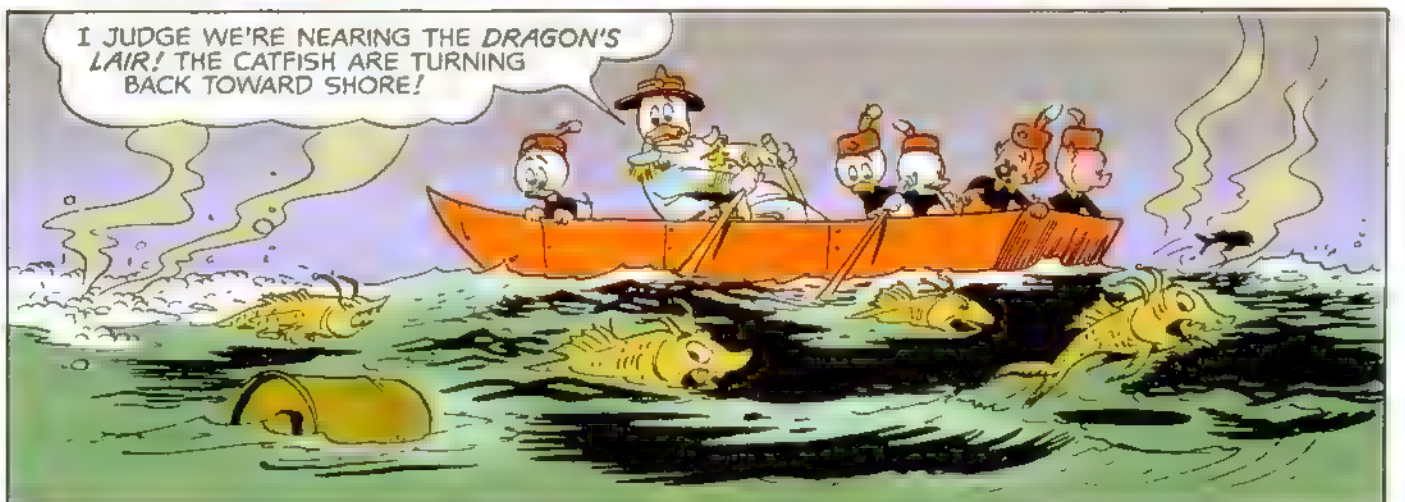
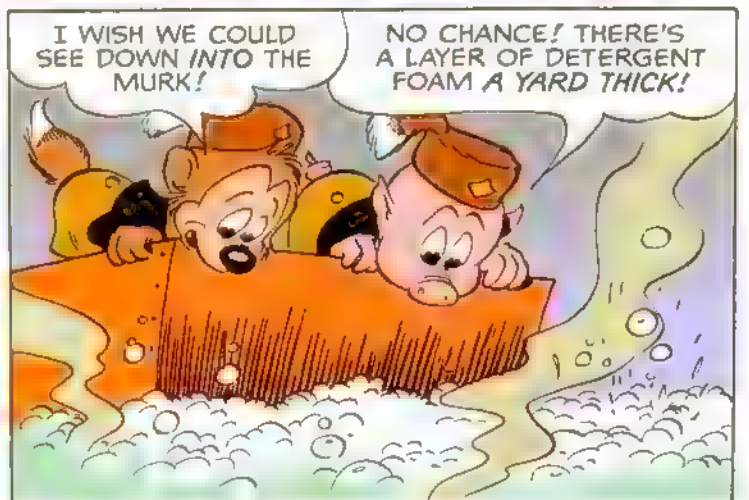
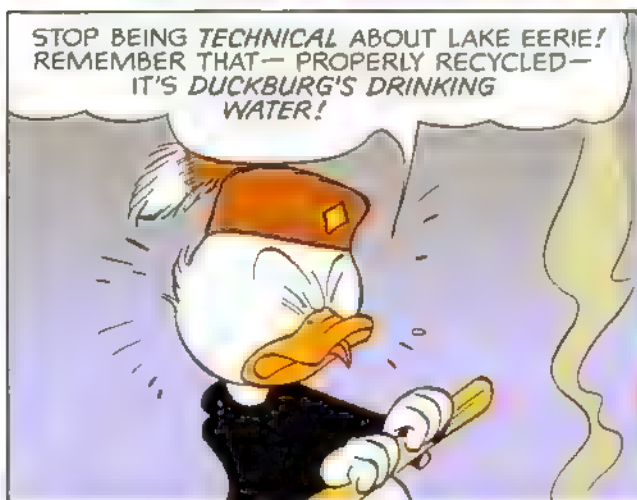
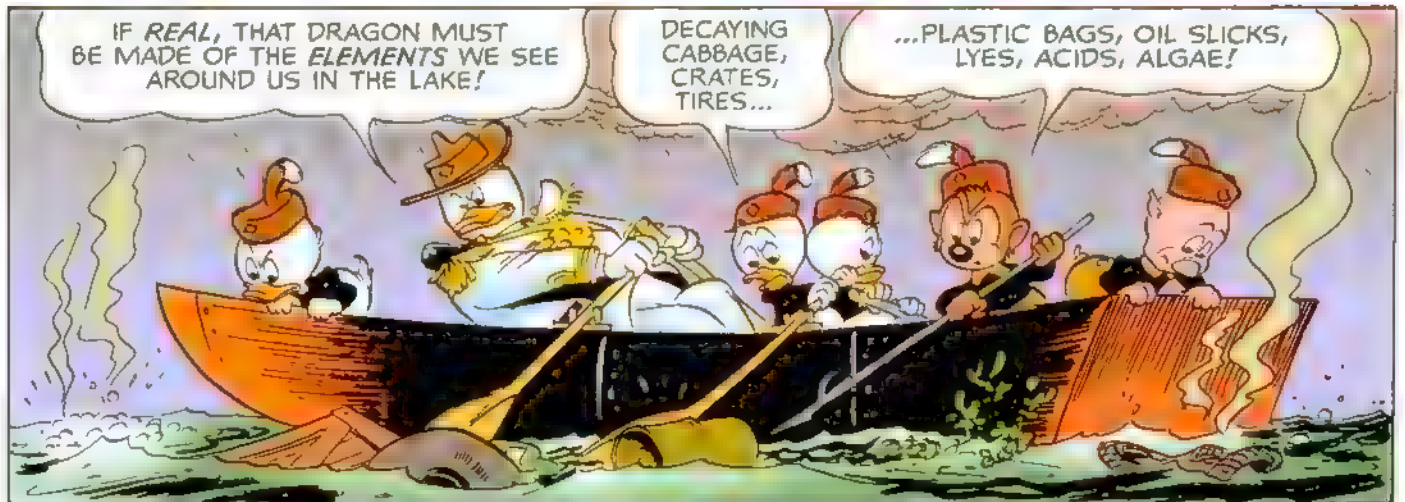


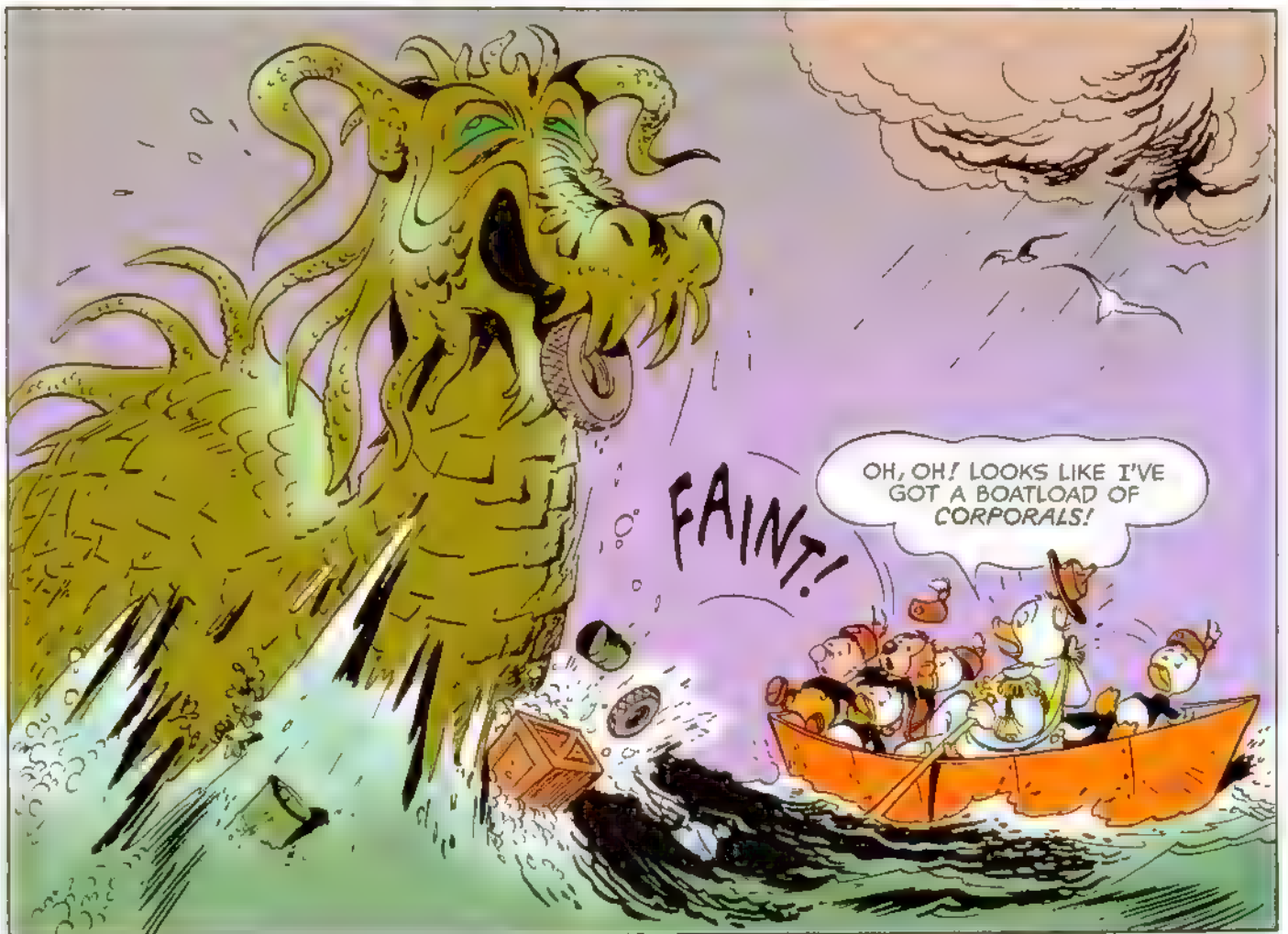
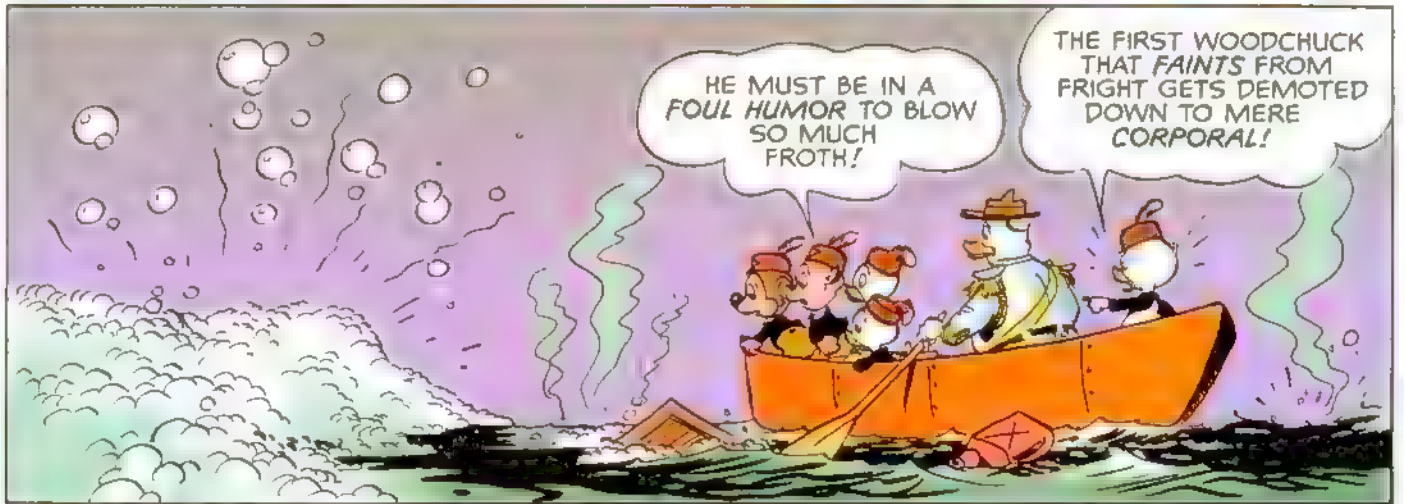
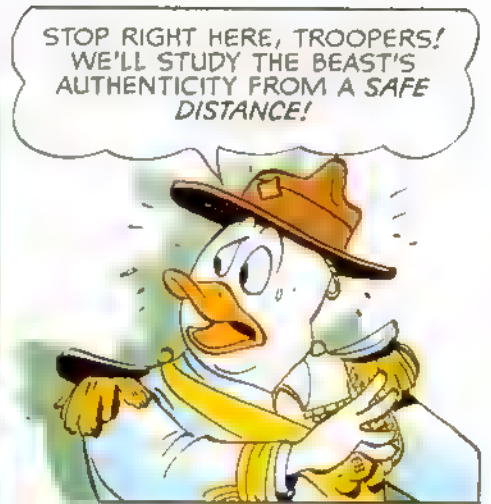
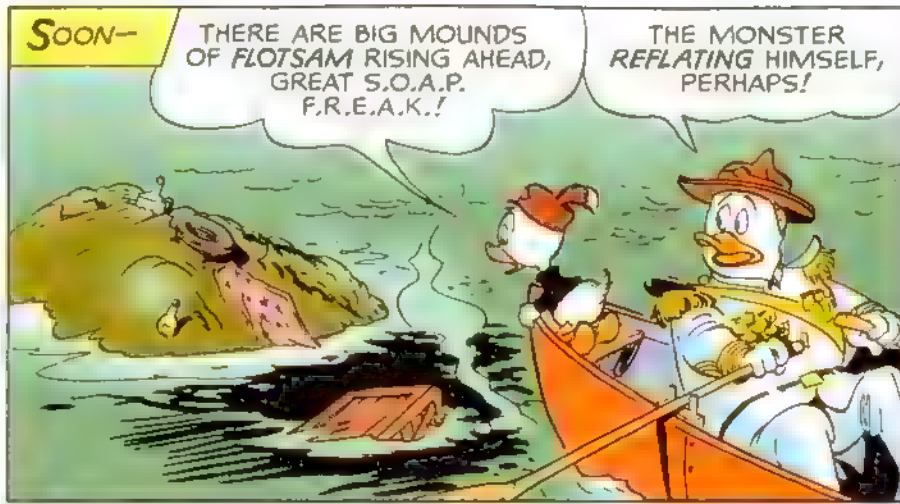


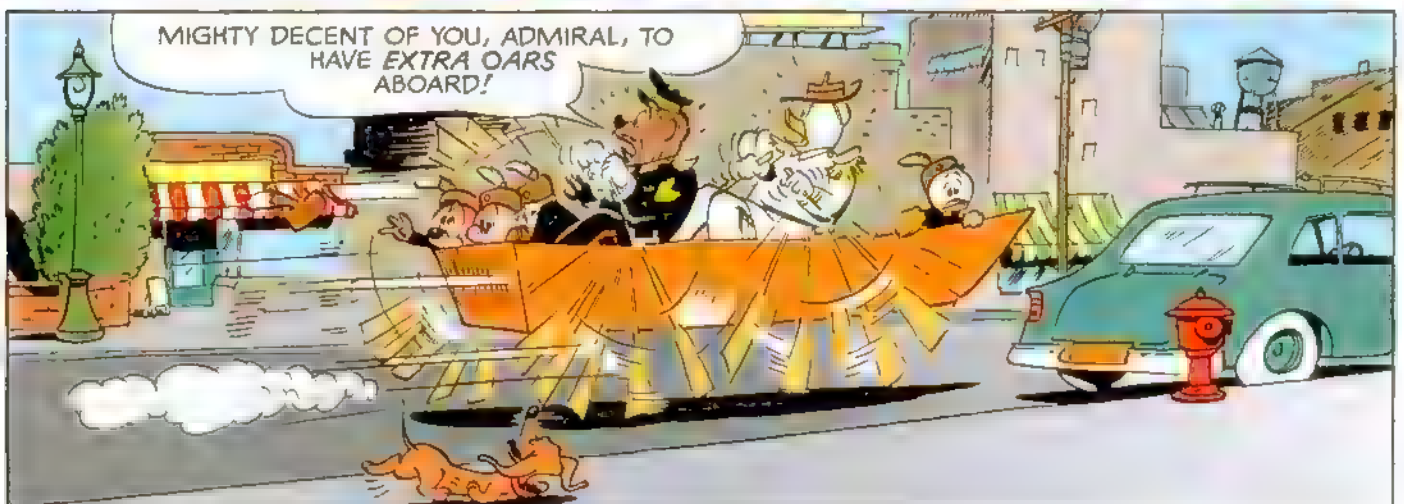
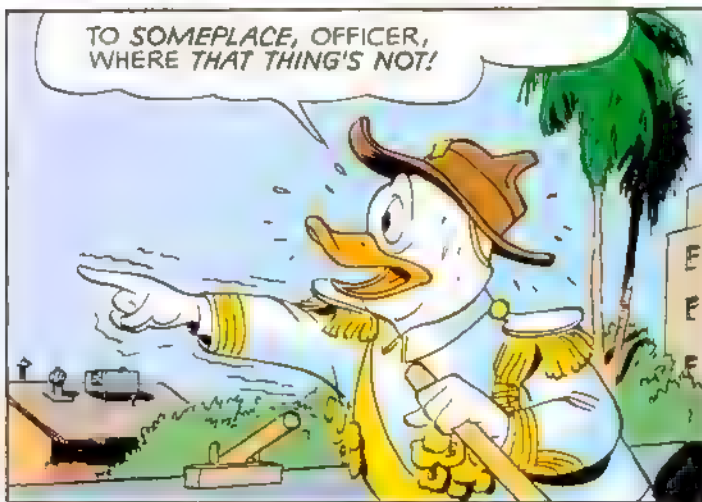
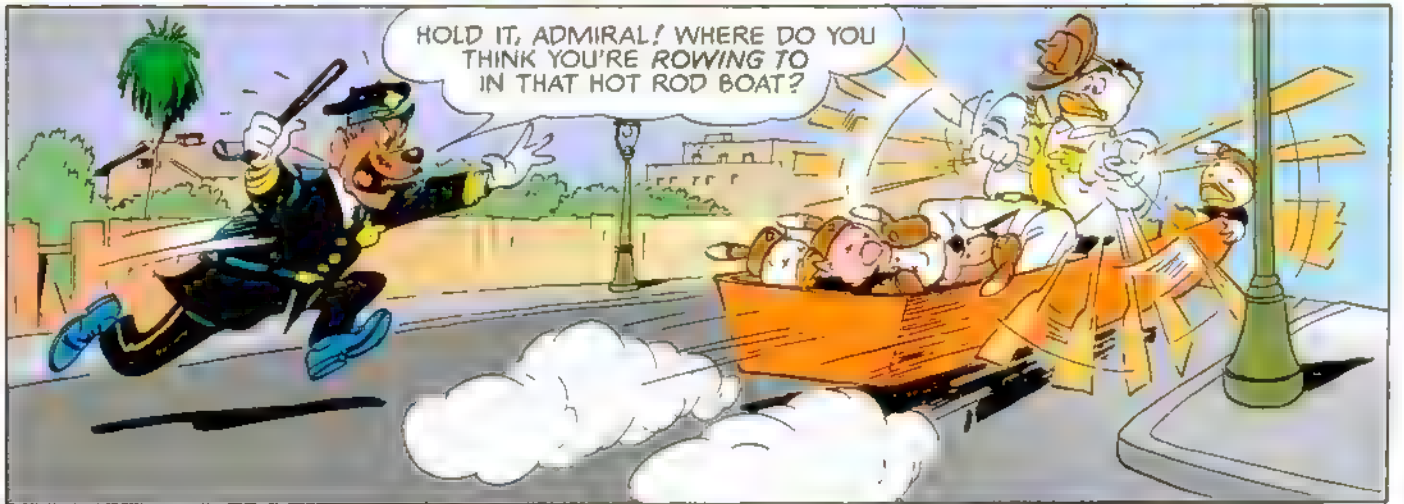
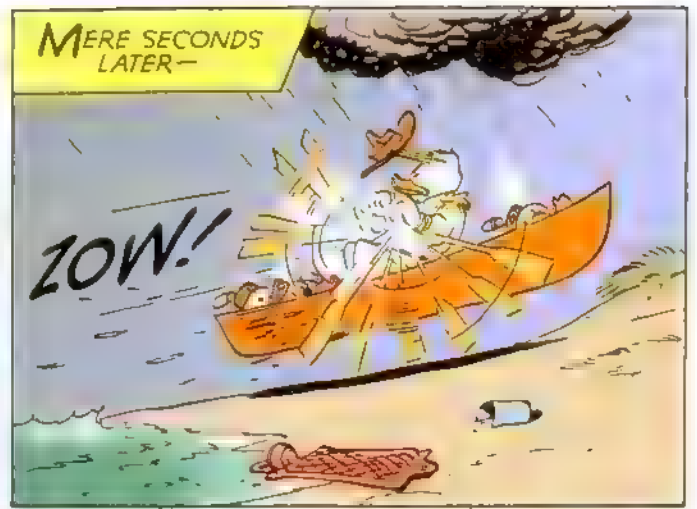
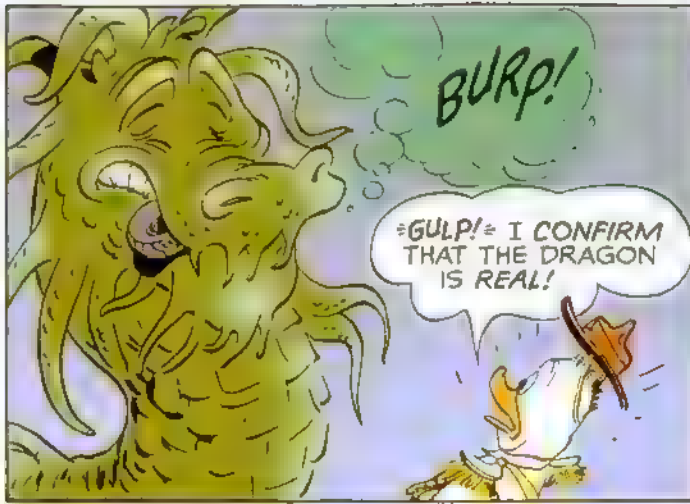


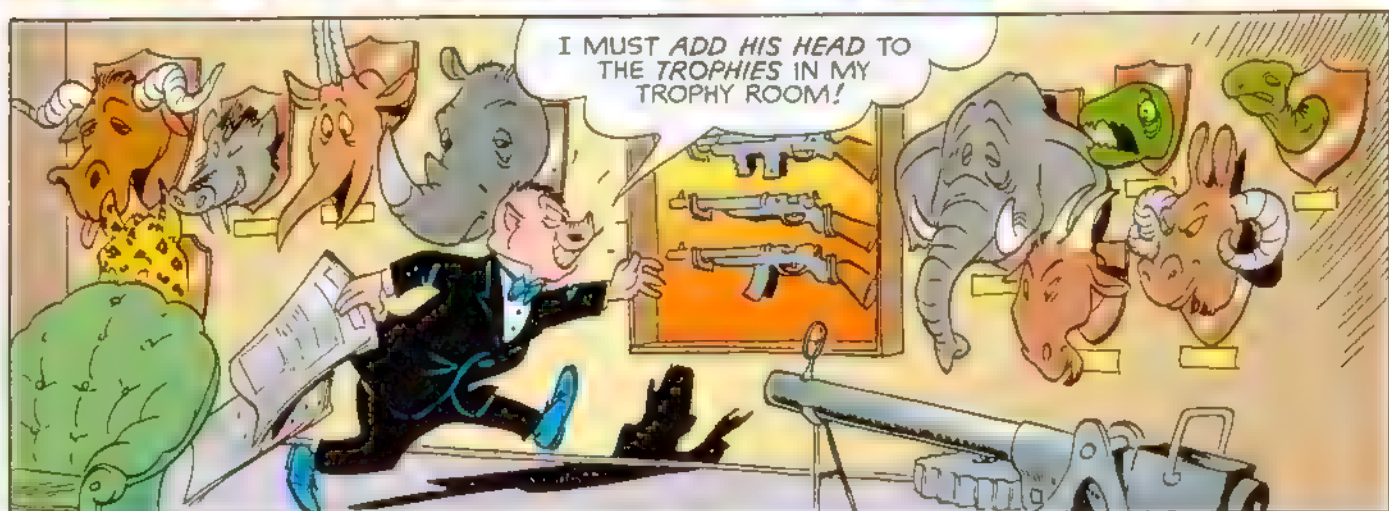
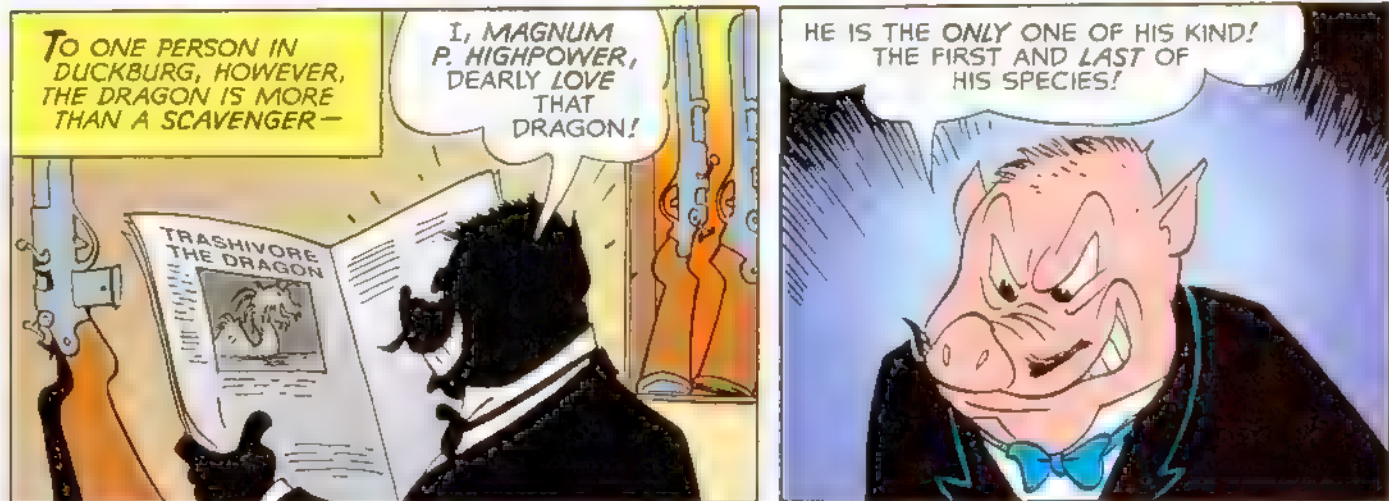
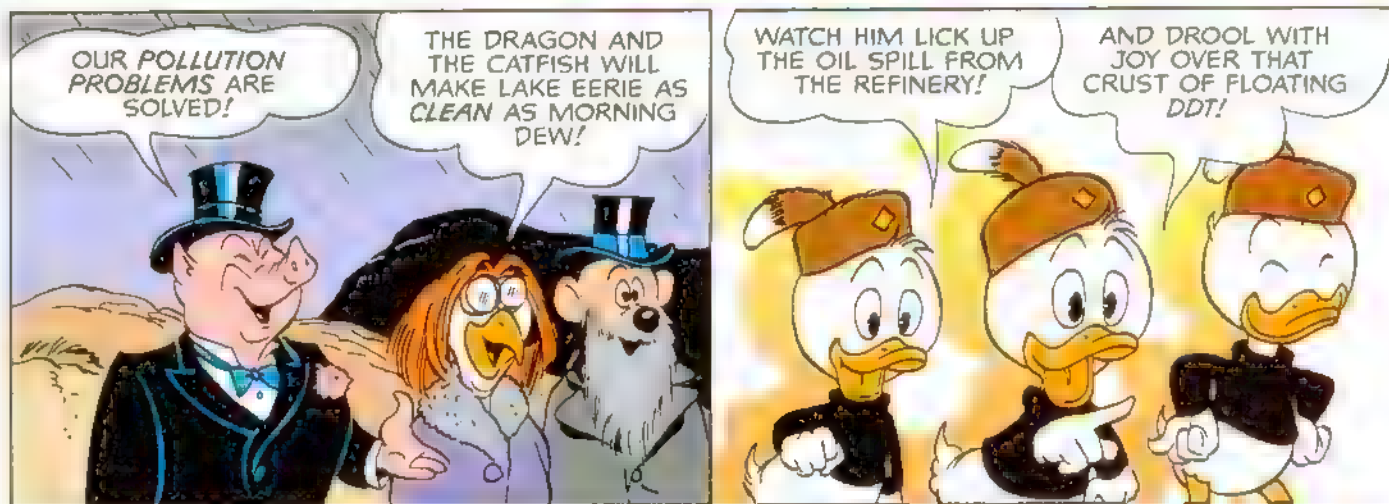
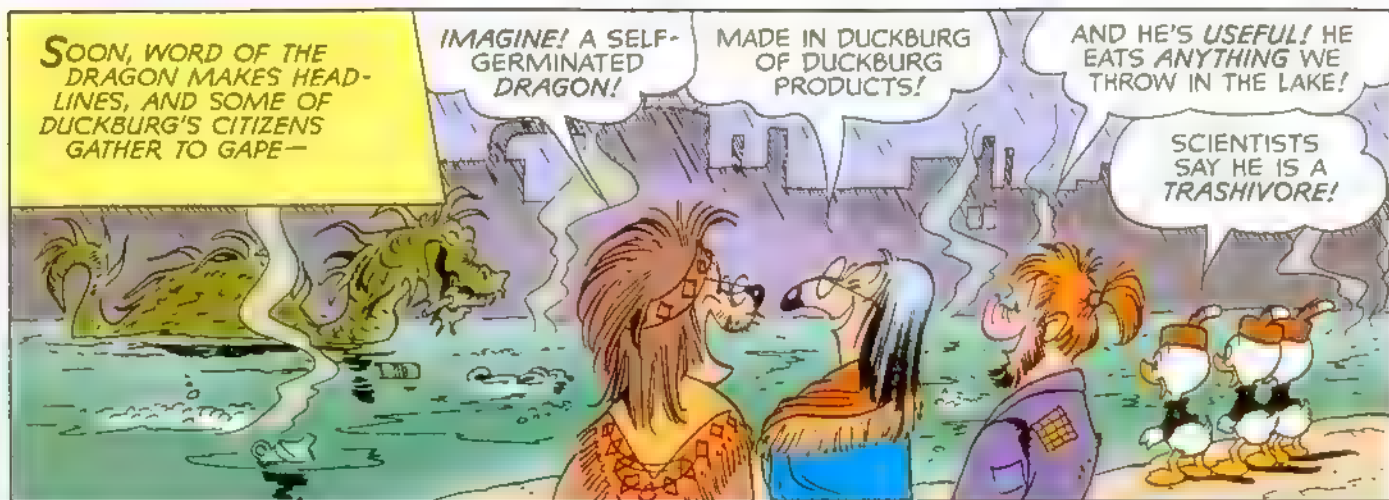








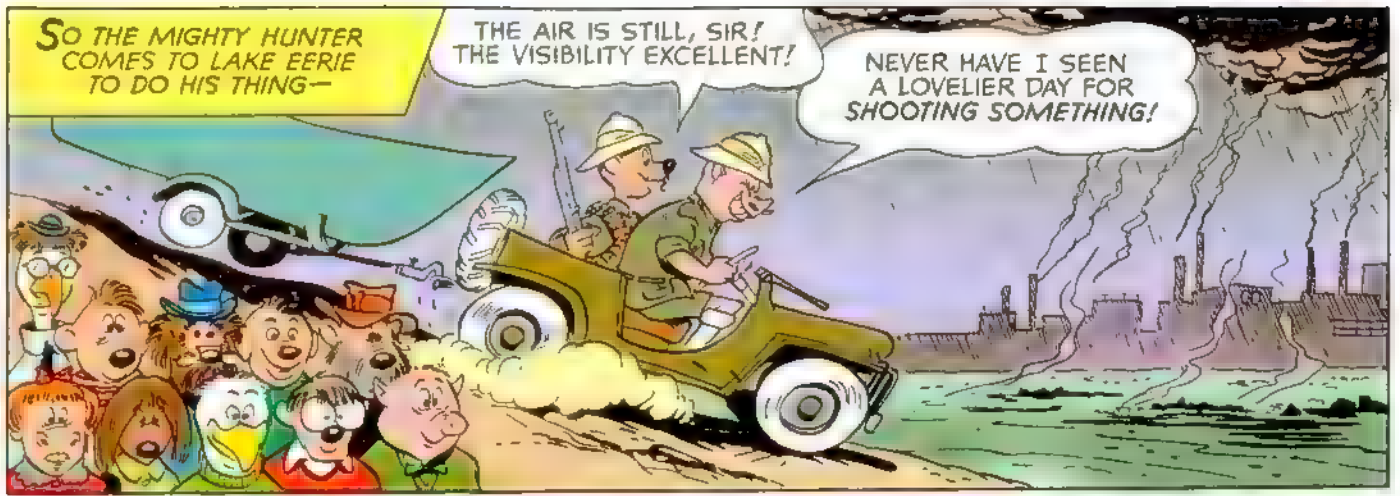




SO THE MIGHTY HUNTER
COMES TO LAKE EERIE
TO DO HIS THING—

THE AIR IS STILL, SIR!
THE VISIBILITY EXCELLENT!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN
A LOVELIER DAY FOR
SHOOTING SOMETHING!

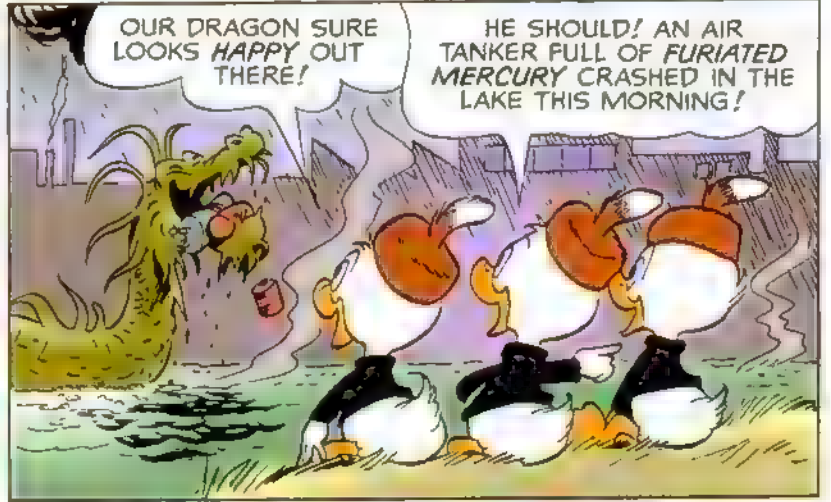


EVEN AN AUDIENCE IS HERE TO
WATCH MAN'S TRIUMPH OVER
A BEAST!

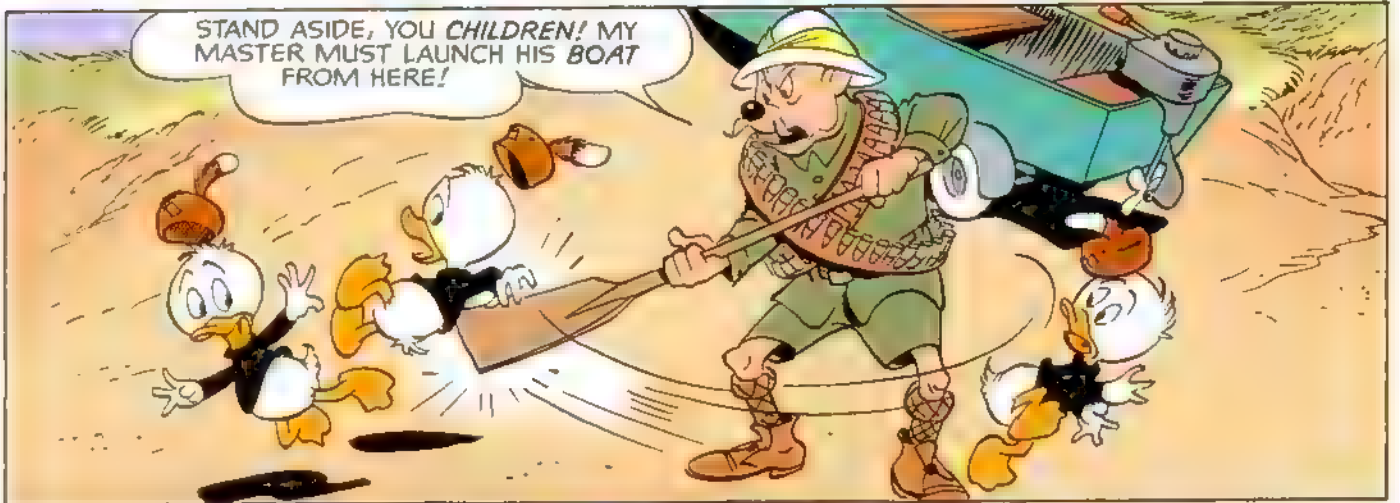


OUR DRAGON SURE
LOOKS HAPPY OUT
THERE!

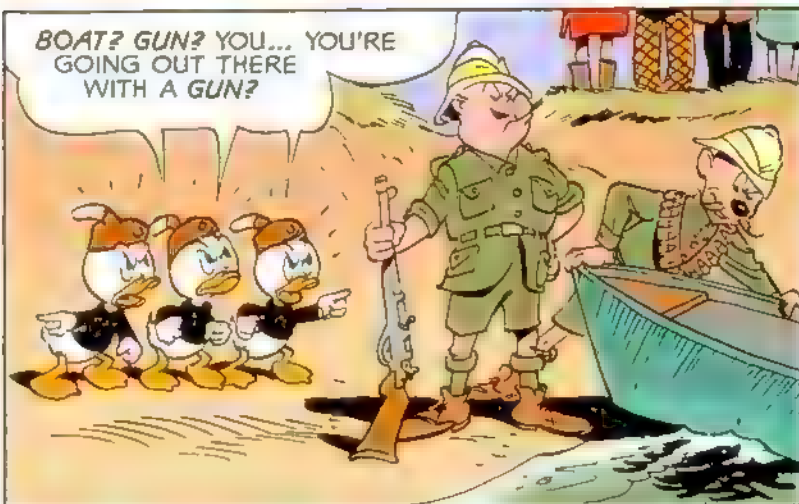
HE SHOULD! AN AIR
TANKER FULL OF FURIATED
MERCURY CRASHED IN THE
LAKE THIS MORNING!



STAND ASIDE, YOU CHILDREN! MY
MASTER MUST LAUNCH HIS BOAT
FROM HERE!

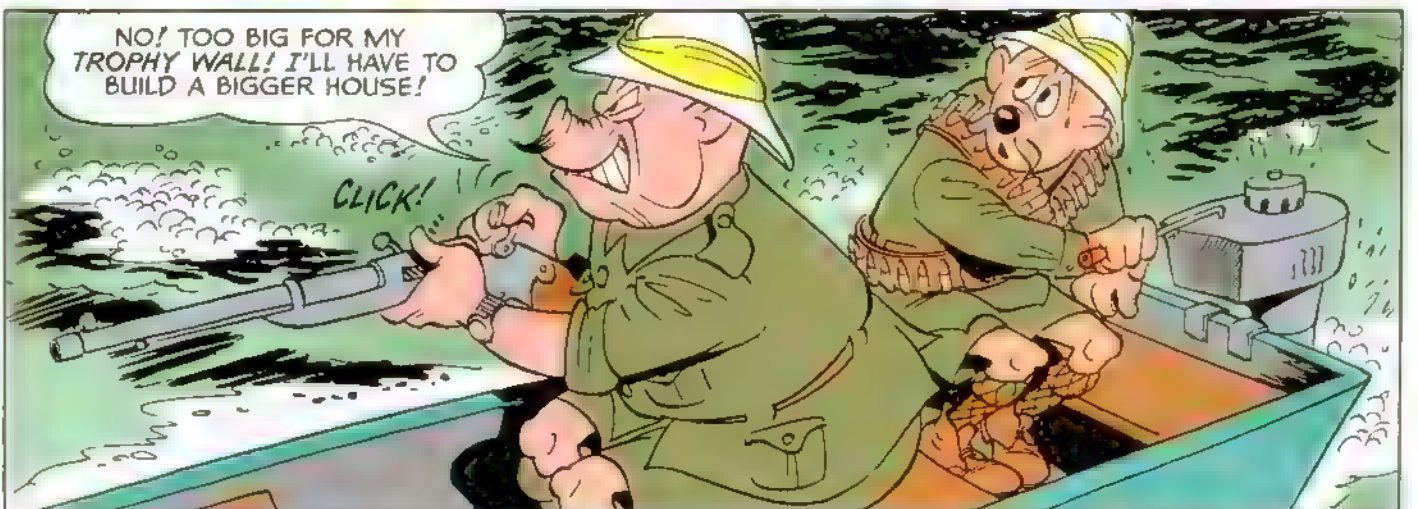
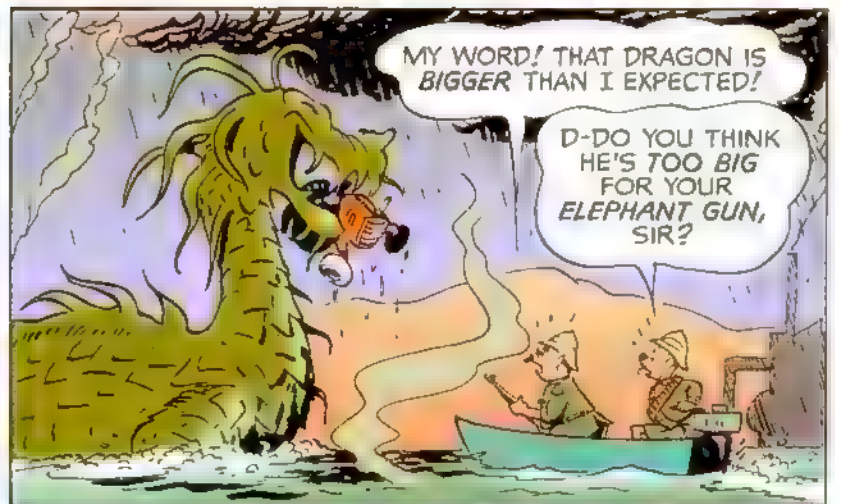
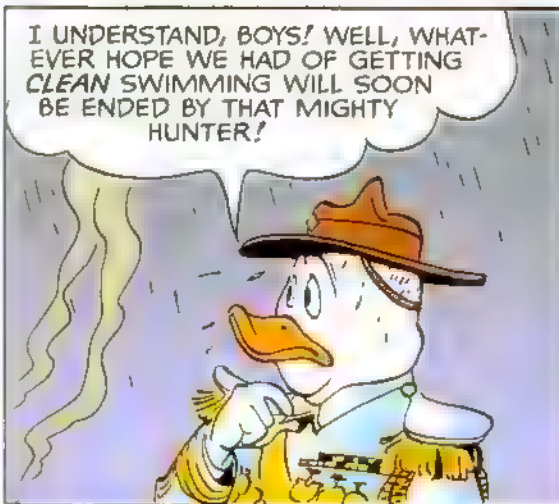
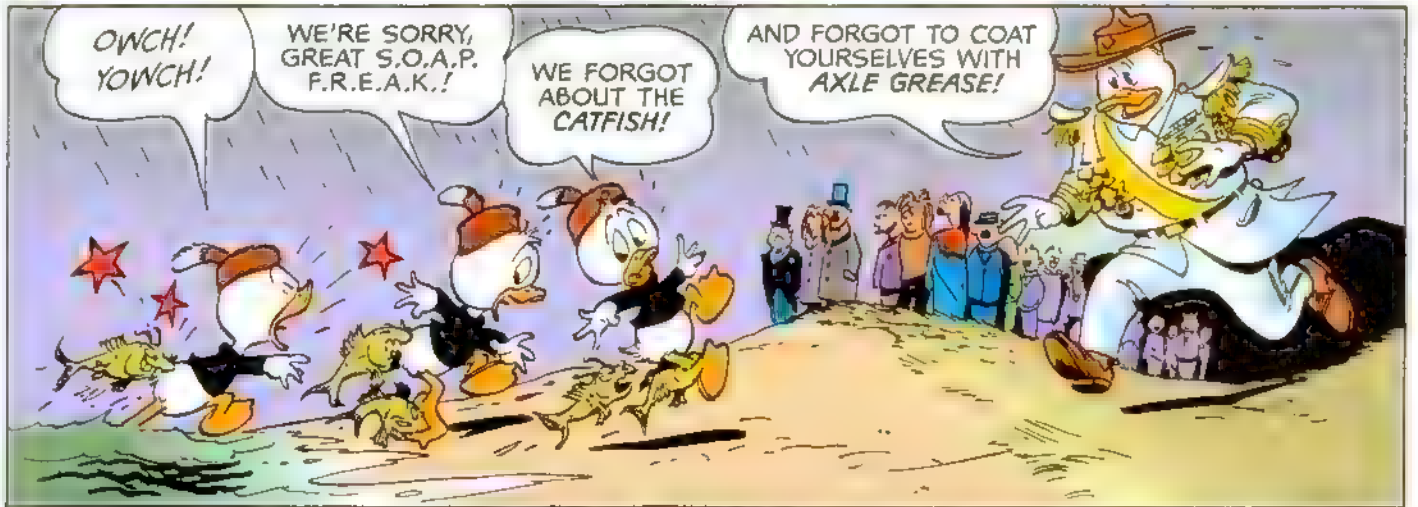
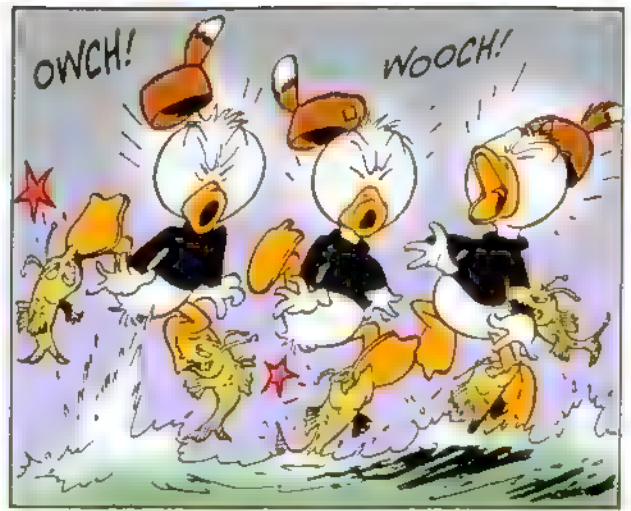
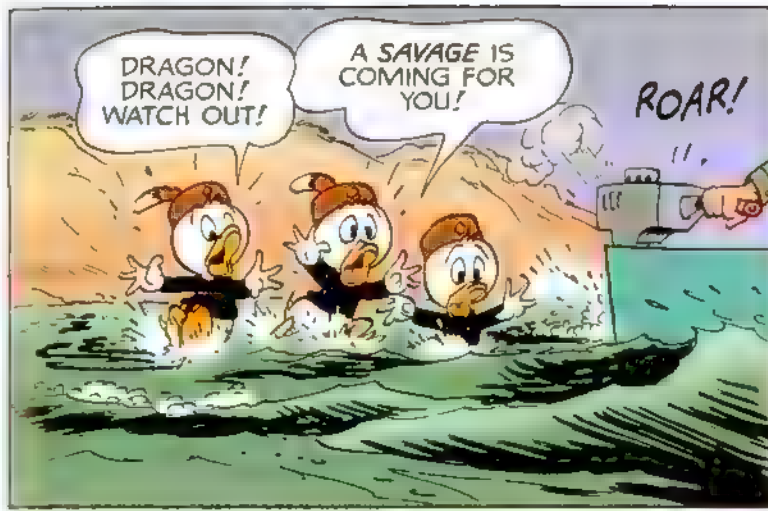


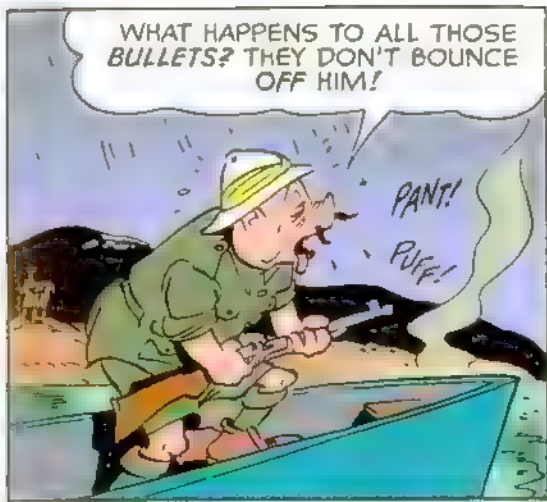
BOAT? GUN? YOU... YOU'RE
GOING OUT THERE
WITH A GUN?



CERTAINLY! THERE IS NOTHING IN
THE HUNTING LAWS ABOUT CLOSED
SEASONS ON DRAGONS!



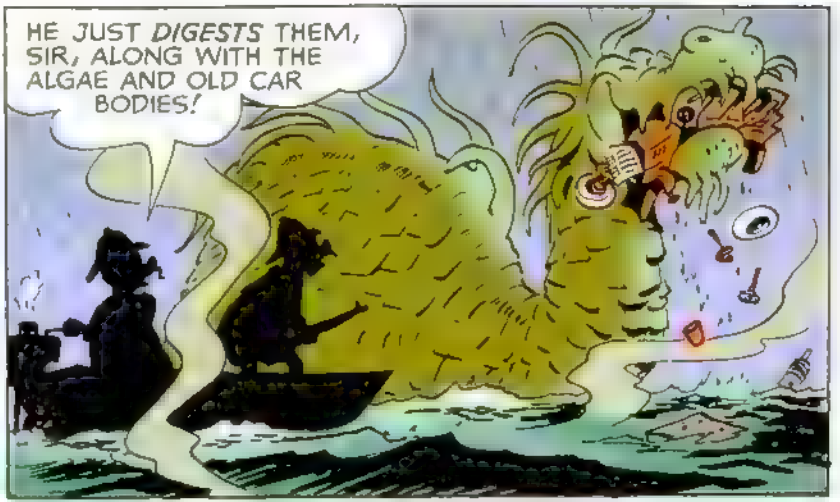




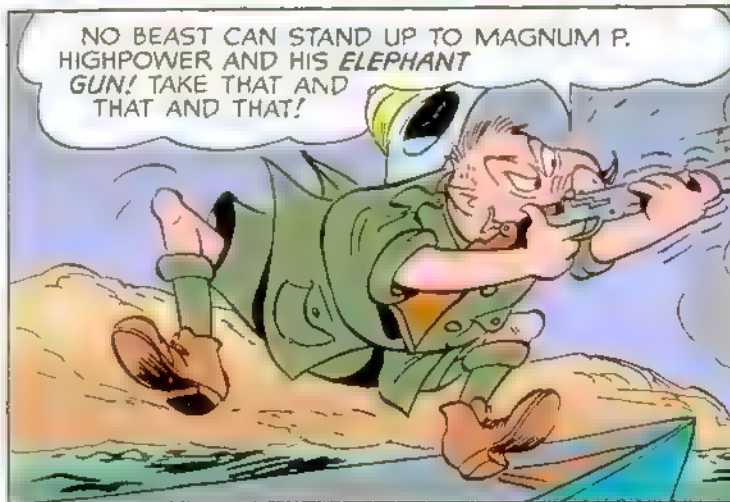
WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THOSE BULLETS? THEY DON'T BOUNCE OFF HIM!

PANT!

PUFF!

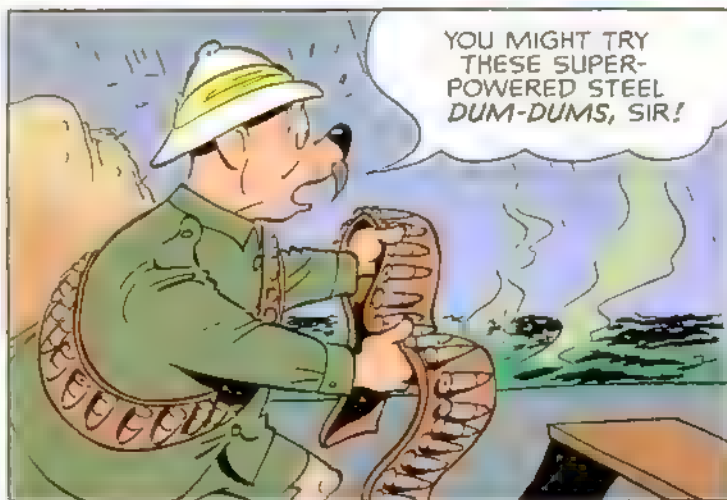


HE JUST DIGESTS THEM, SIR, ALONG WITH THE ALGAE AND OLD CAR BODIES!

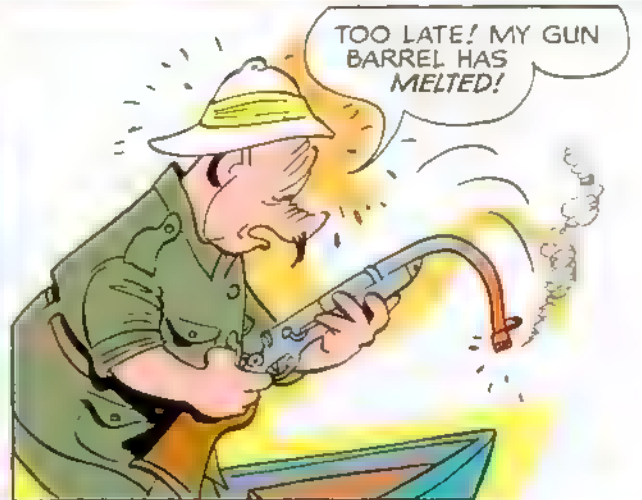


NO BEAST CAN STAND UP TO MAGNUM P. HIGHPOWER AND HIS ELEPHANT GUN! TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT!

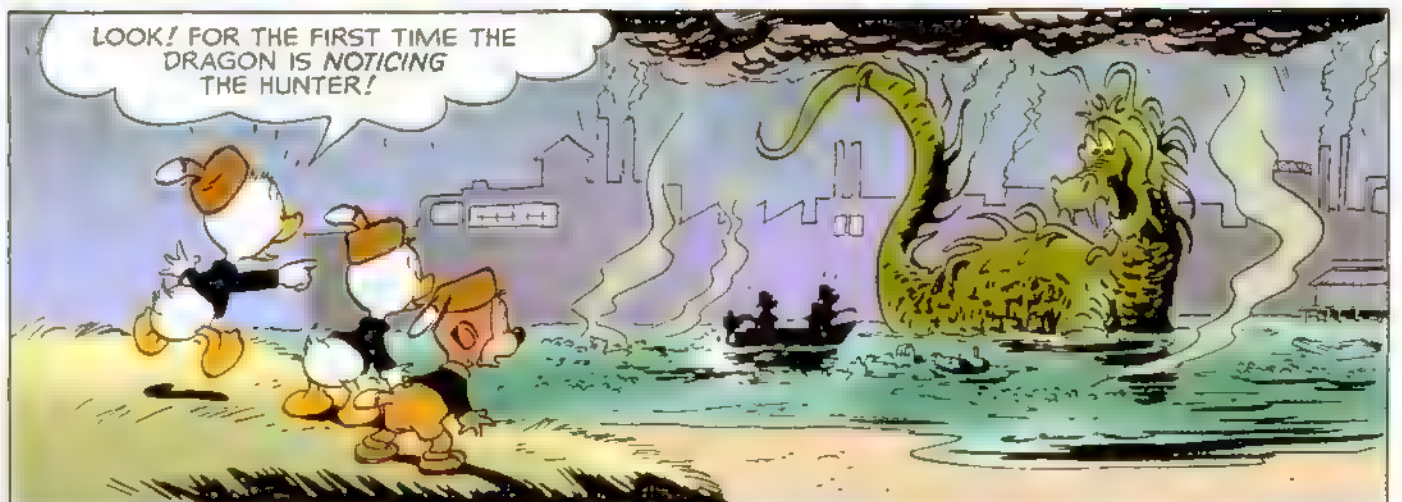
BANG! BANG! BANG!
BANG!
BANG! BANG!
BANG! BANG!



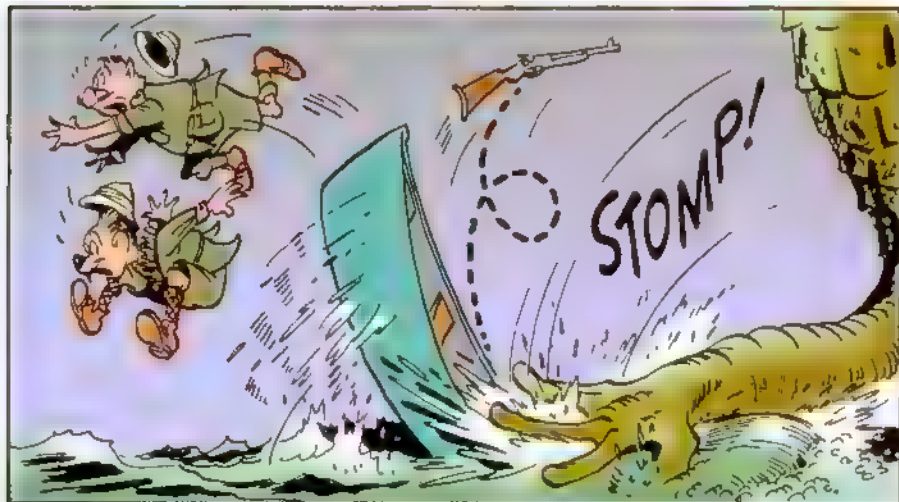
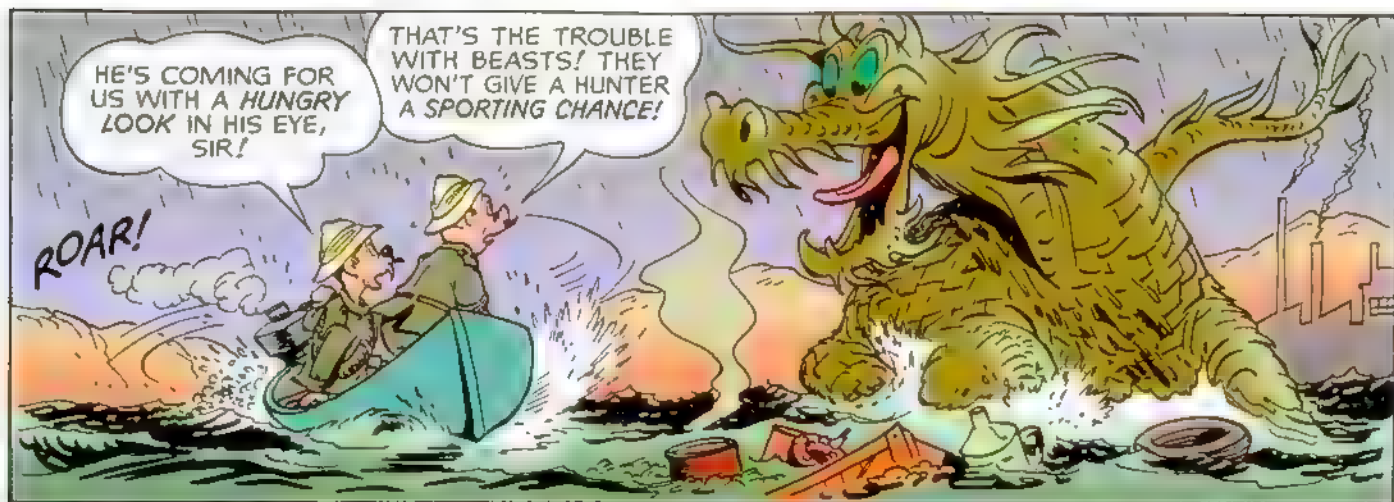
YOU MIGHT TRY THESE SUPER-POWERED STEEL DUM-DUMS, SIR!



TOO LATE! MY GUN BARREL HAS MELTED!



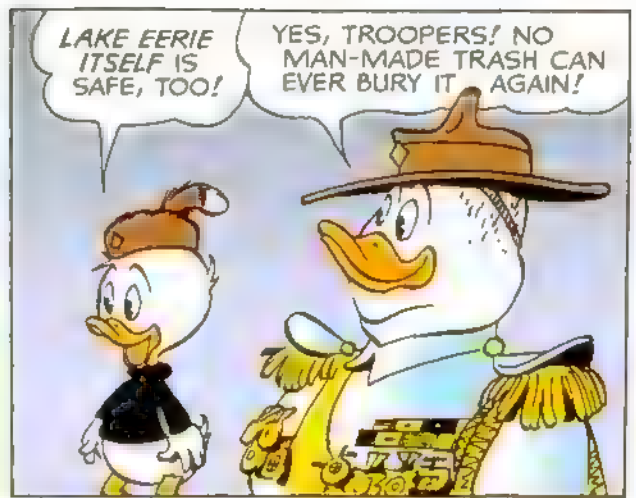
LOOK! FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DRAGON IS NOTICING THE HUNTER!





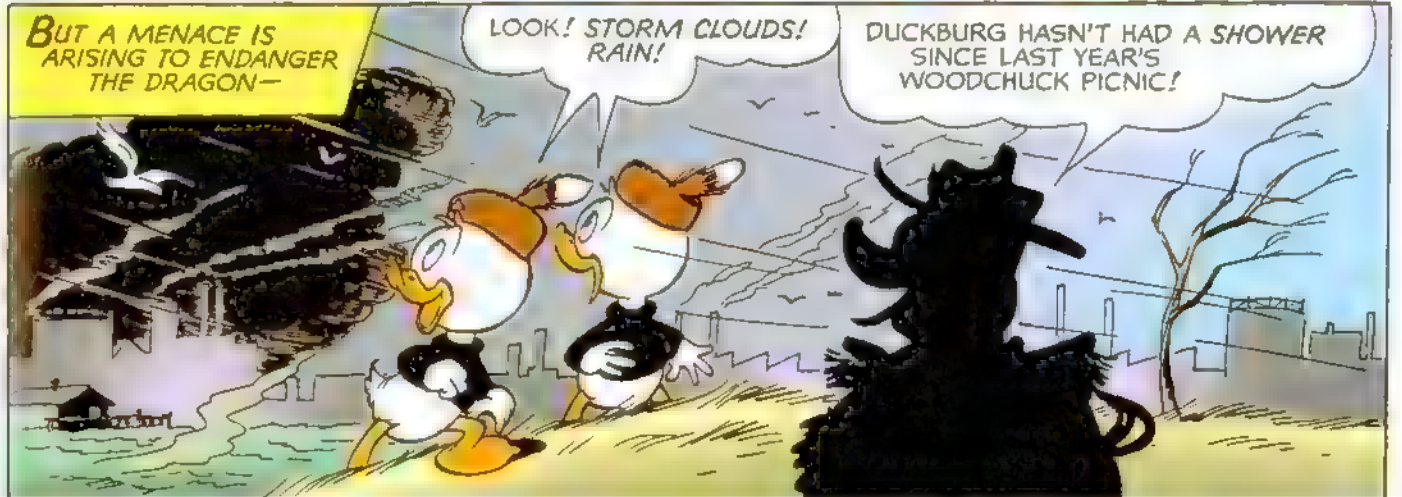
THE DRAGON
SEEMS TO BE SAFE
NOW, GREAT
S.O.A.P. F.R.E.A.K.!

YES, TROOPERS!
NO MAN-MADE MISCHIEF
CAN DO HIM HARM!



LAKE EERIE
ITSELF IS
SAFE, TOO!

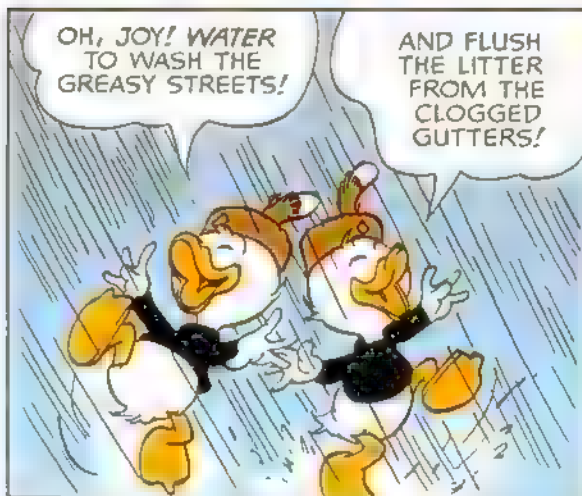
YES, TROOPERS! NO
MAN-MADE TRASH CAN
EVER BURY IT AGAIN!



**BUT A MENACE IS
ARISING TO ENDANGER
THE DRAGON—**

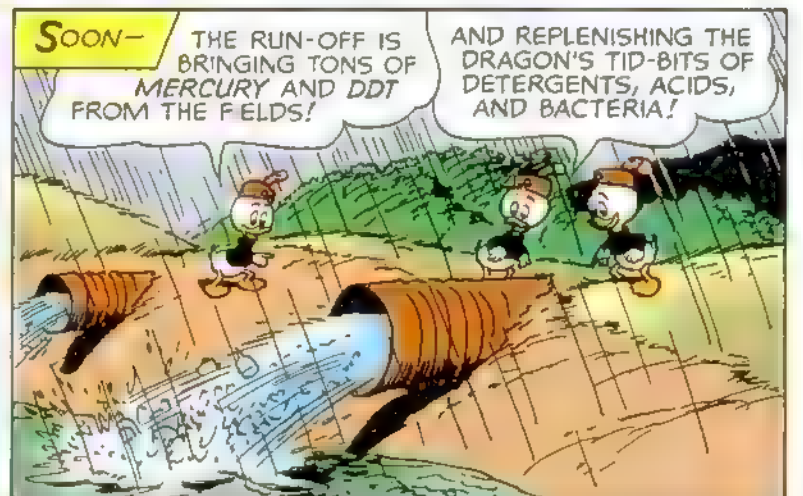
LOOK! STORM CLOUDS!
RAIN!

DUCKBURG HASN'T HAD A SHOWER
SINCE LAST YEAR'S
WOODCHUCK PICNIC!



OH, JOY! WATER
TO WASH THE
GREASY STREETS!

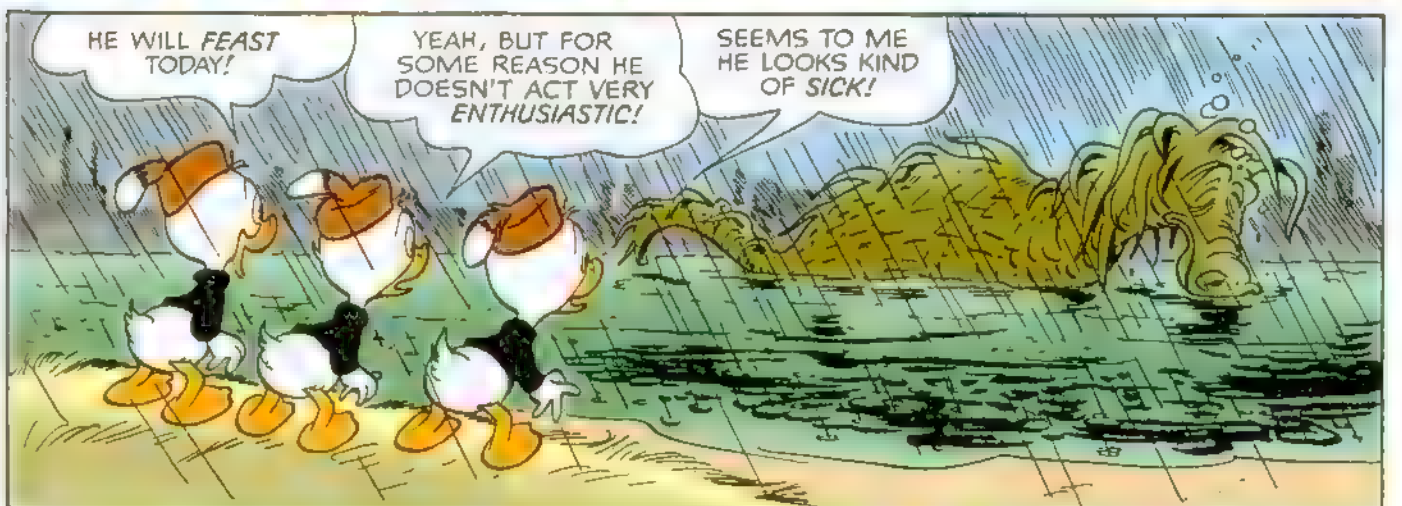
AND FLUSH
THE LITTER
FROM THE
CLOGGED
GUTTERS!



SOON—

THE RUN-OFF IS
BRINGING TONS OF
MERCURY AND DDT
FROM THE FIELDS!

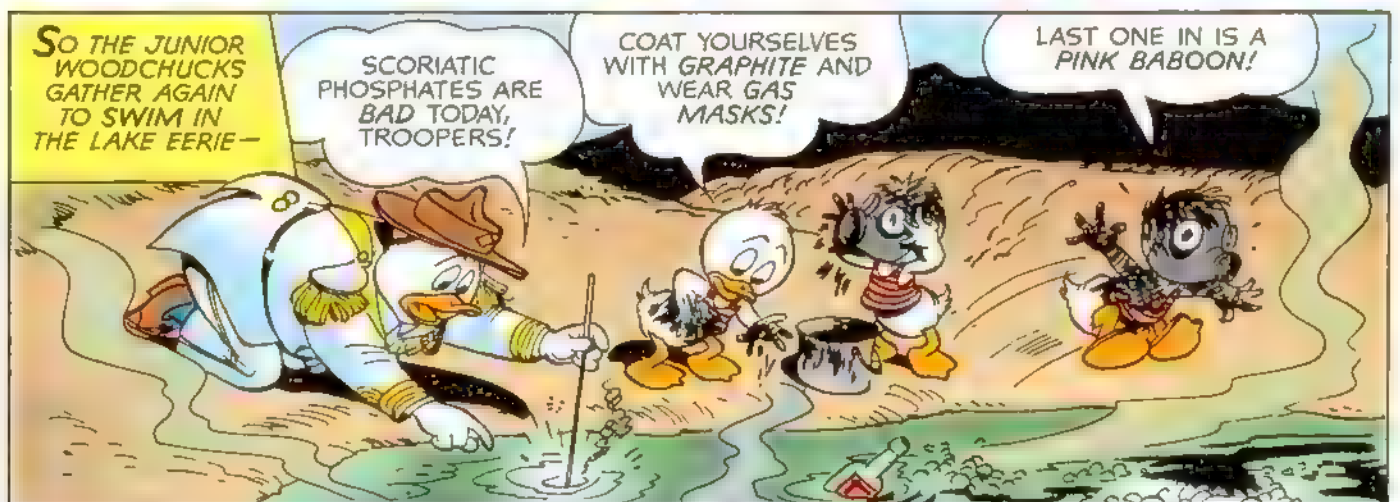
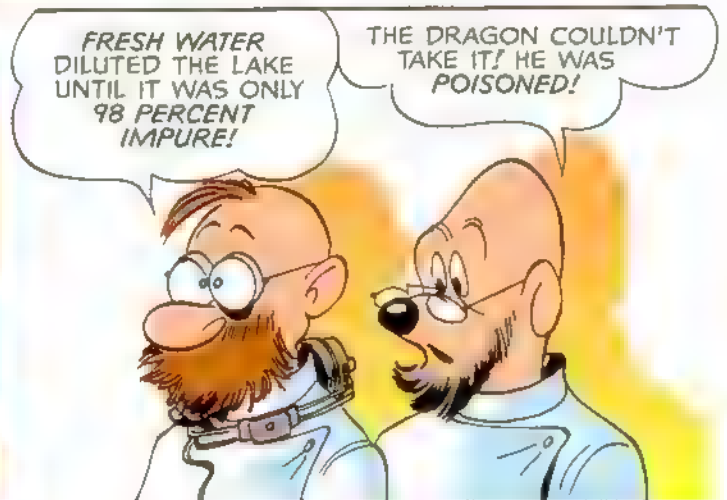
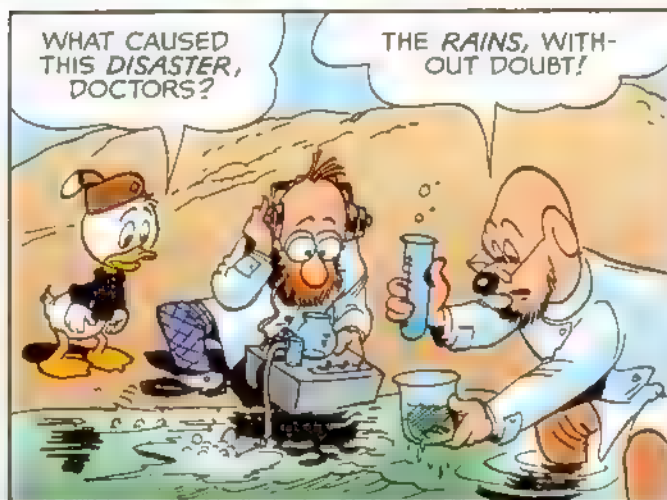
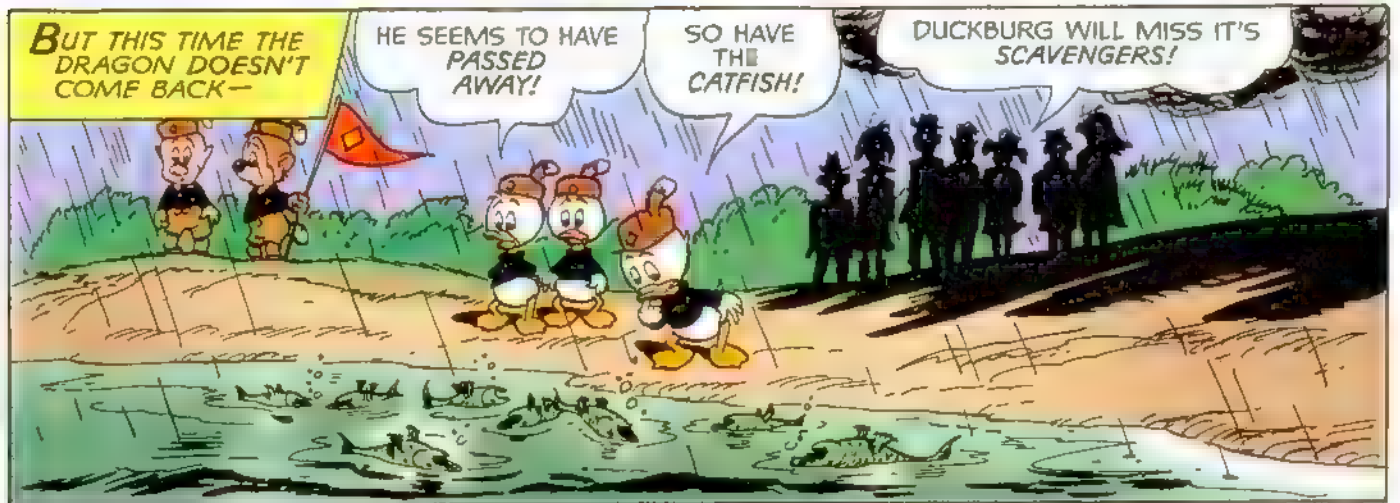
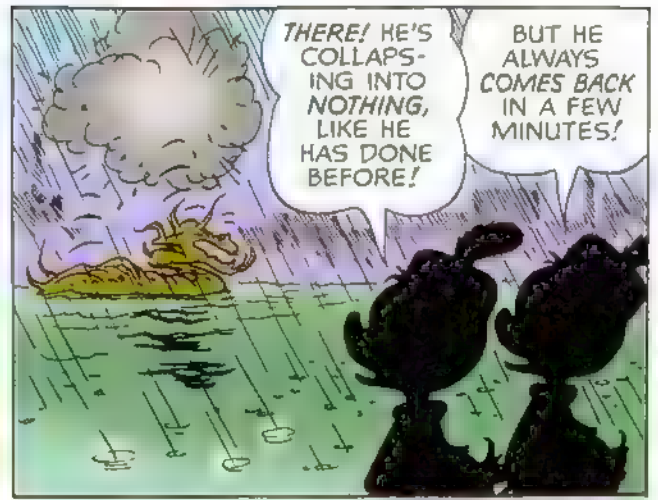
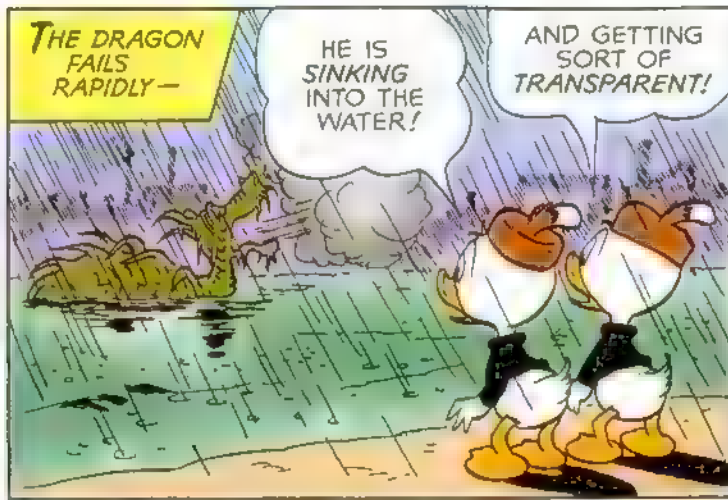
AND REPLENISHING THE
DRAGON'S TID-BITS OF
DETERGENTS, ACIDS,
AND BACTERIA!

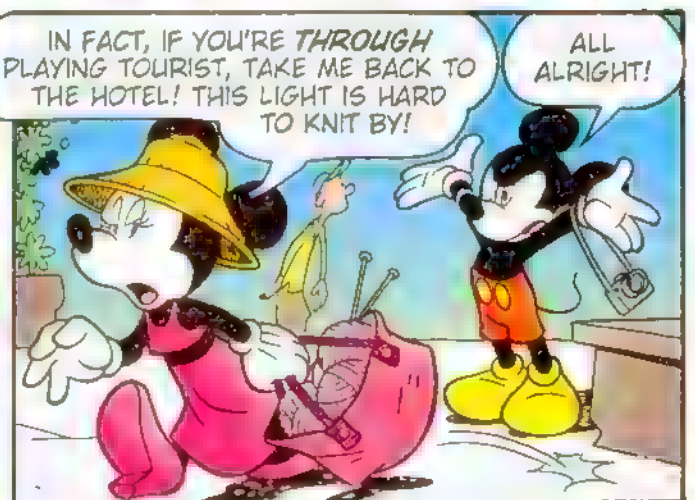
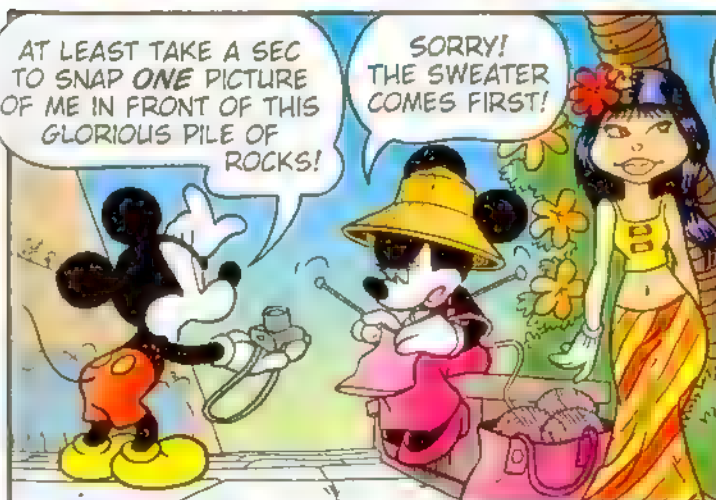
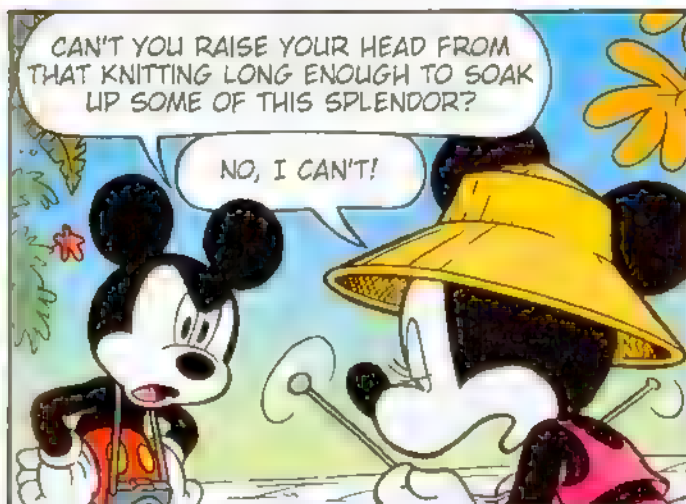
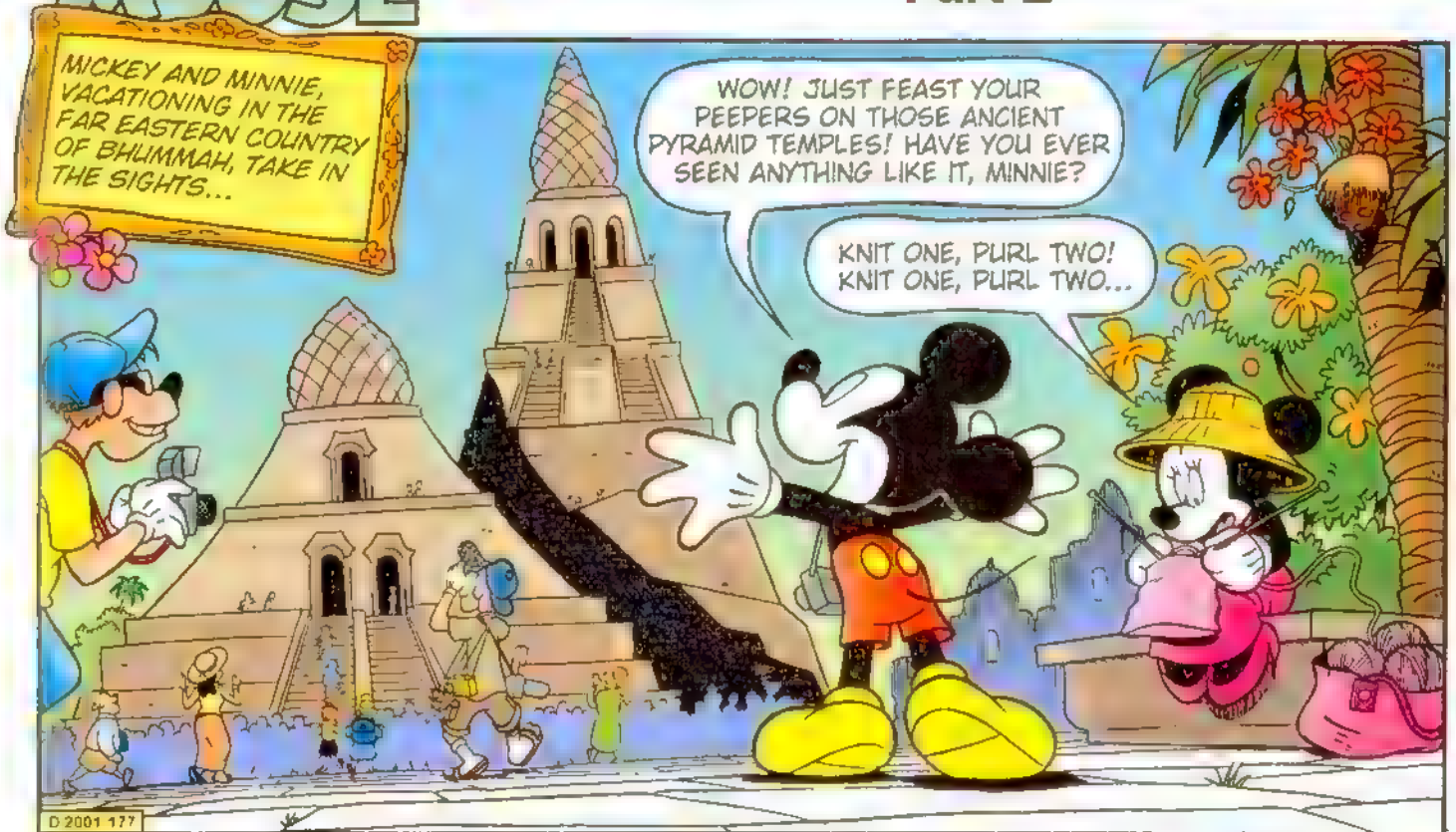


HE WILL FEAST
TODAY!

YEAH, BUT FOR
SOME REASON HE
DOESN'T ACT VERY
ENTHUSIASTIC!

SEEMS TO ME
HE LOOKS KIND
OF SICK!

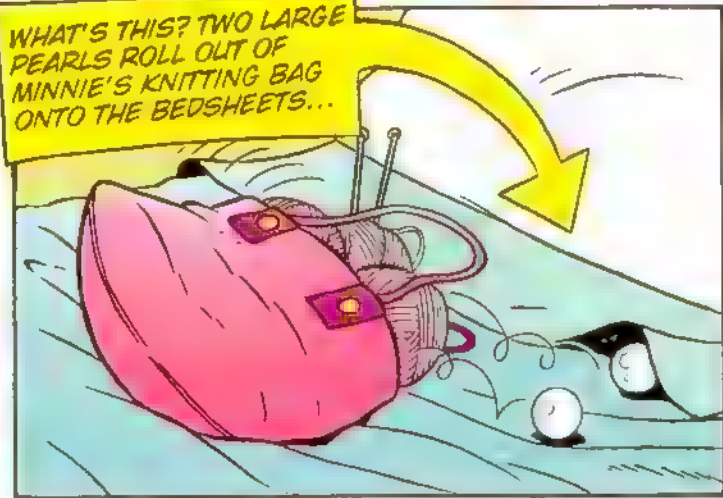
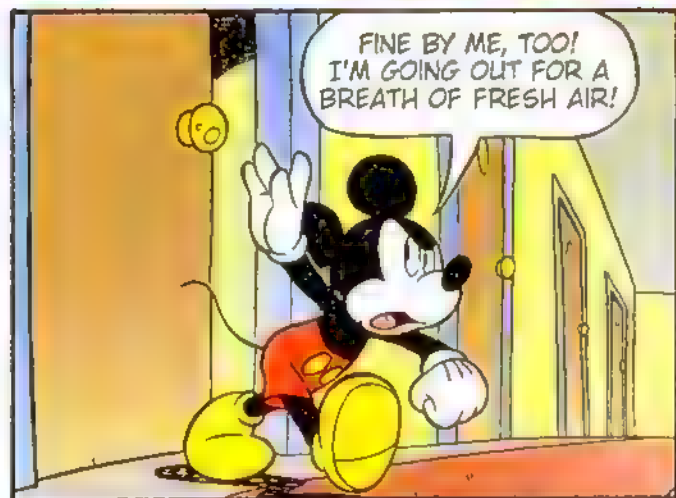
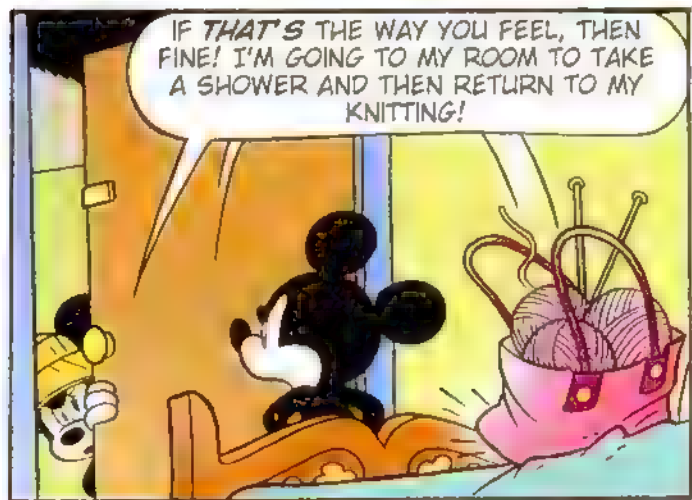
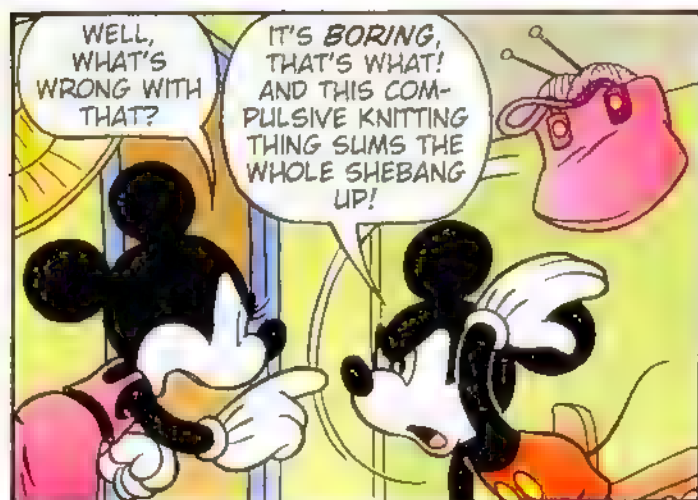
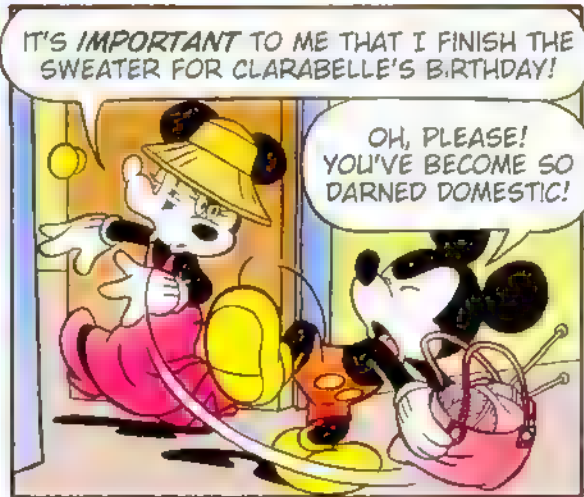
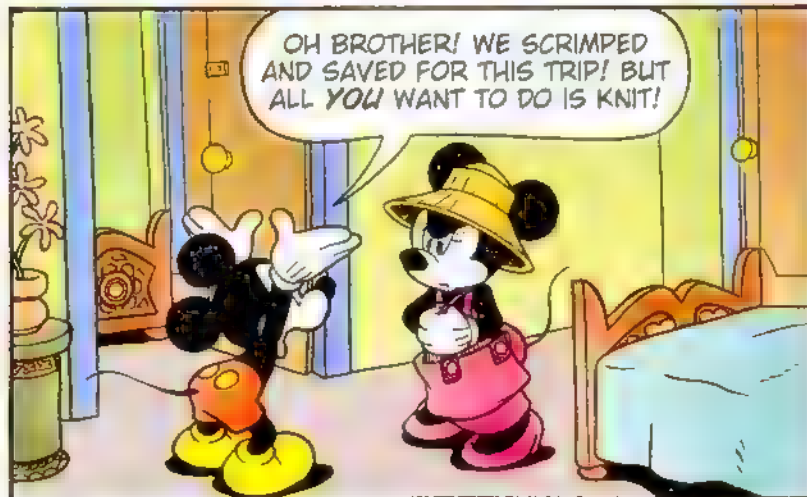


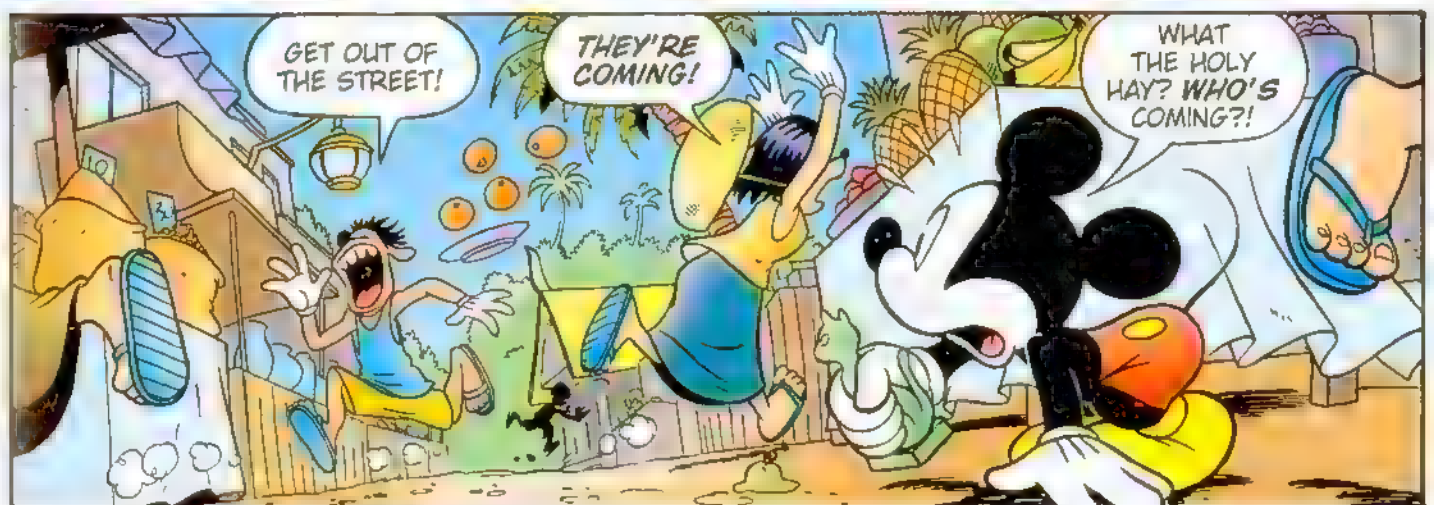
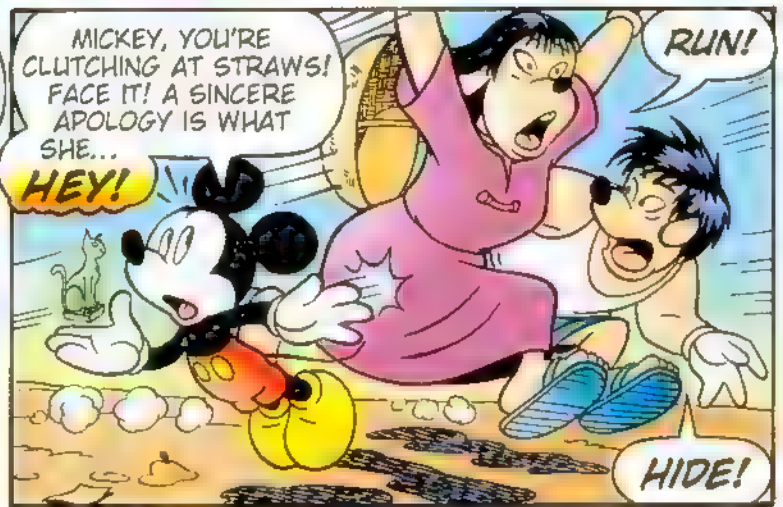
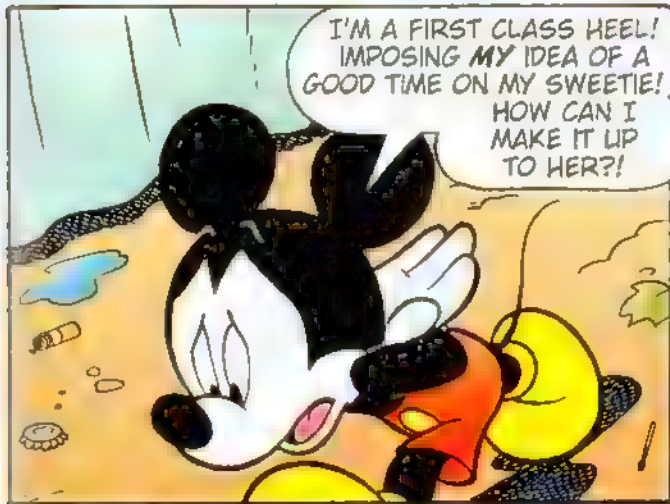
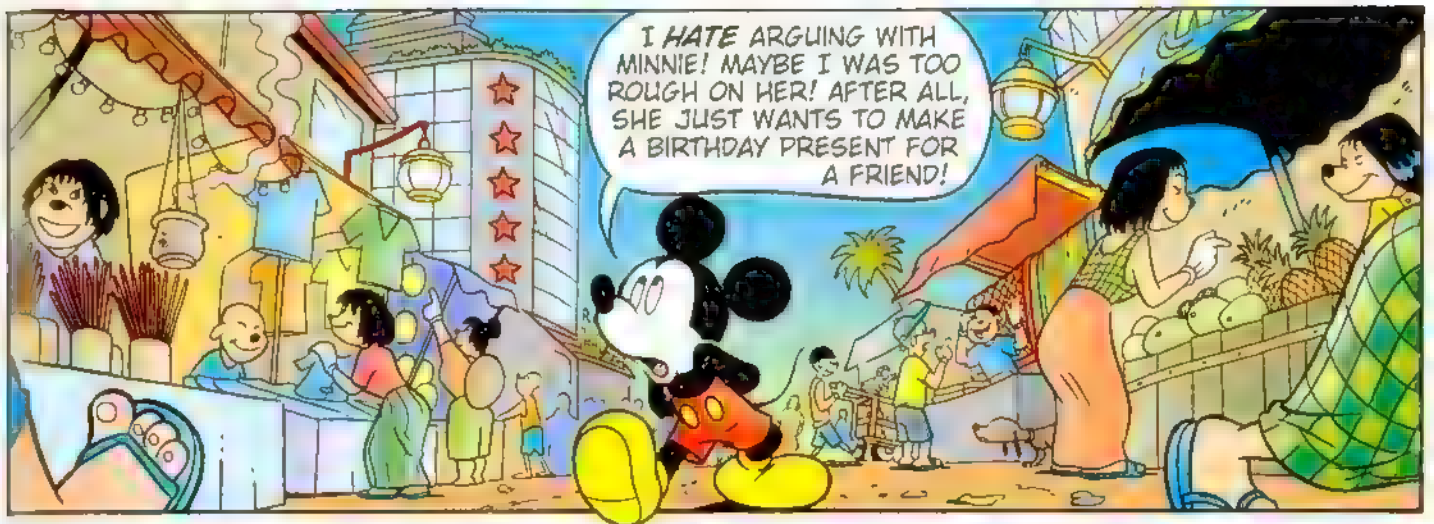


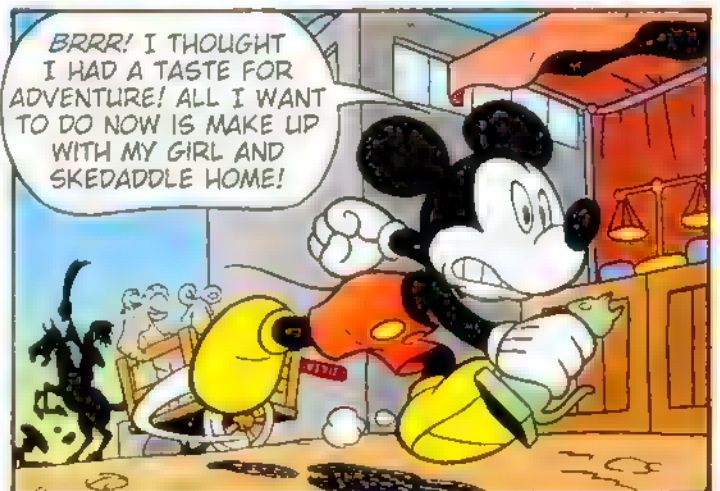
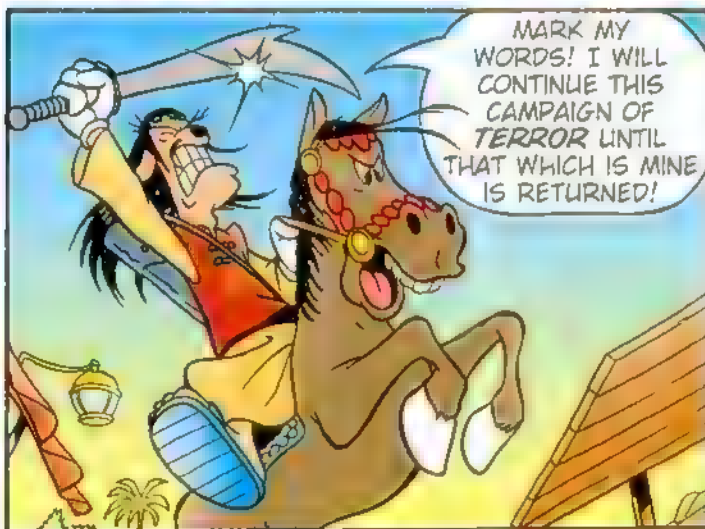
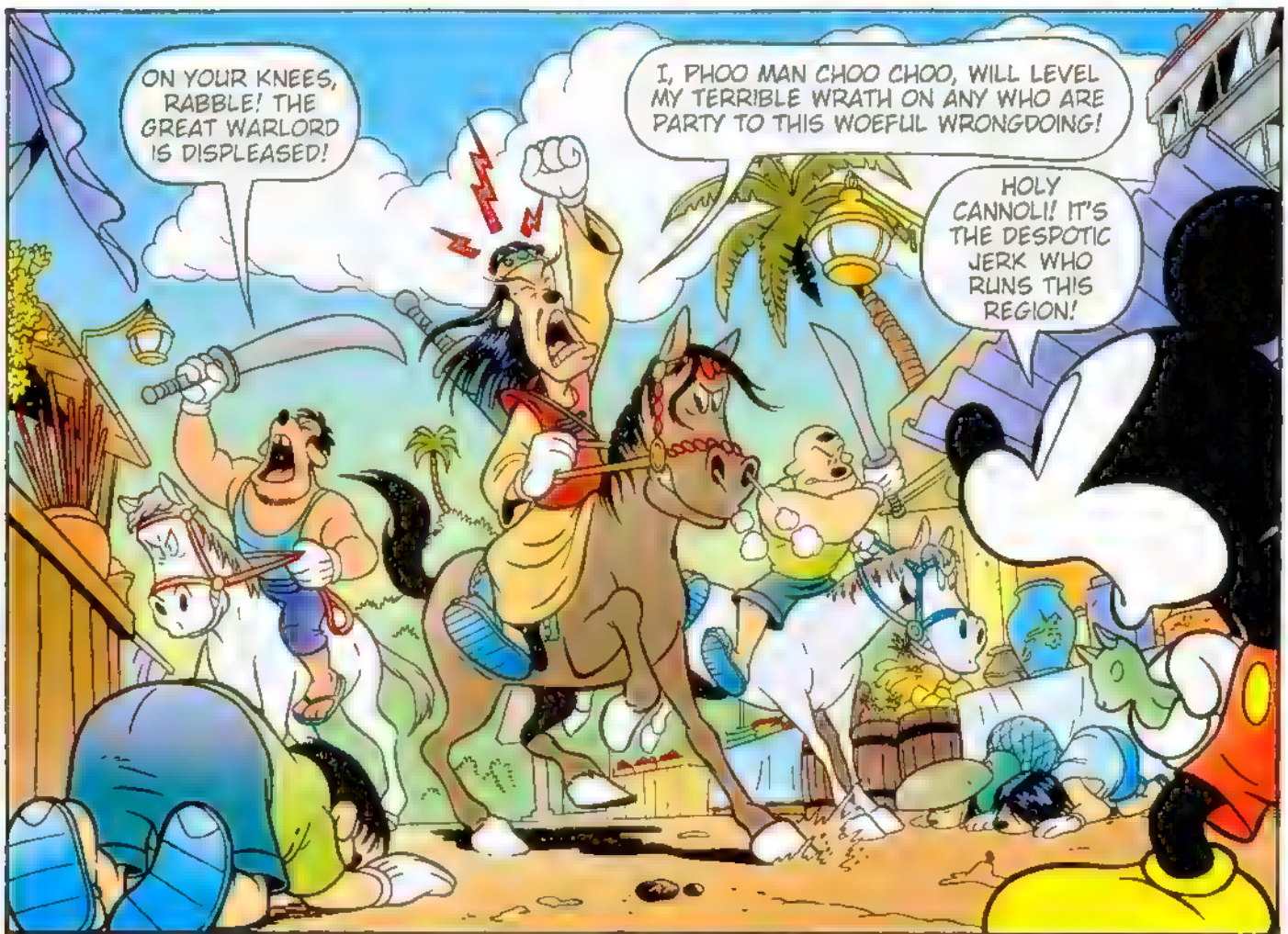
BACK AT THEIR
HOTEL SUITE,
OUR MICE
CONTINUE TO
SQUABBLE...

THIS IS AN INTRIGUING COUNTRY,
MINNIE! FULL OF ANCIENT WONDERS!
WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF
ADVENTURE?

I DON'T
HAVE A SENSE
OF ADVENTURE!
YOU DO!



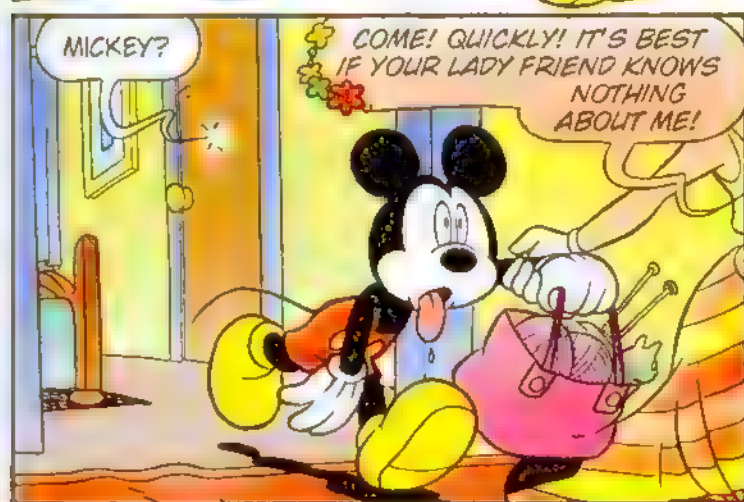
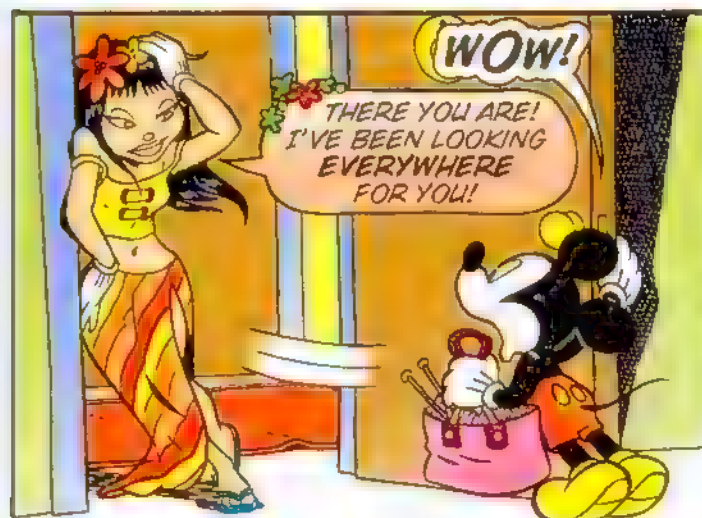
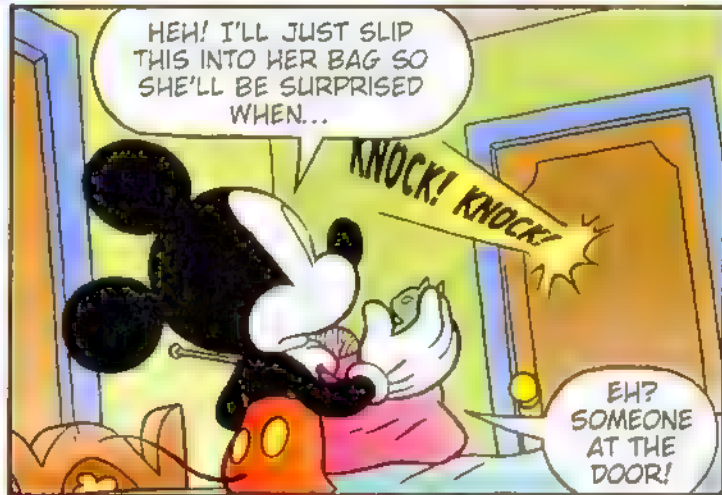


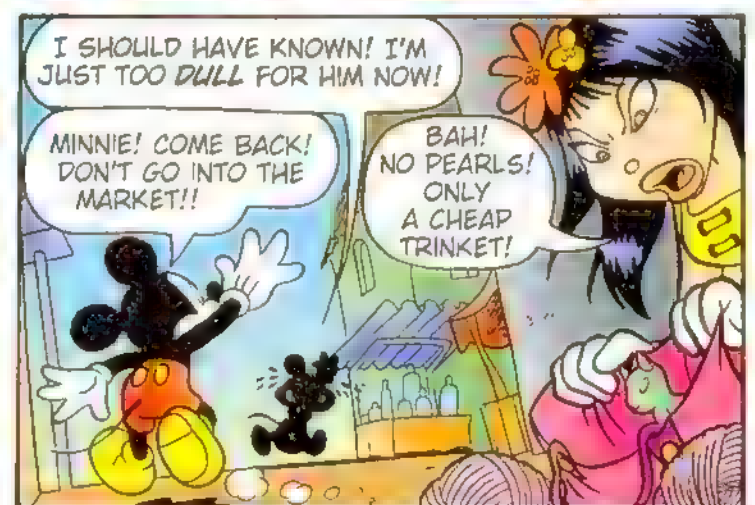
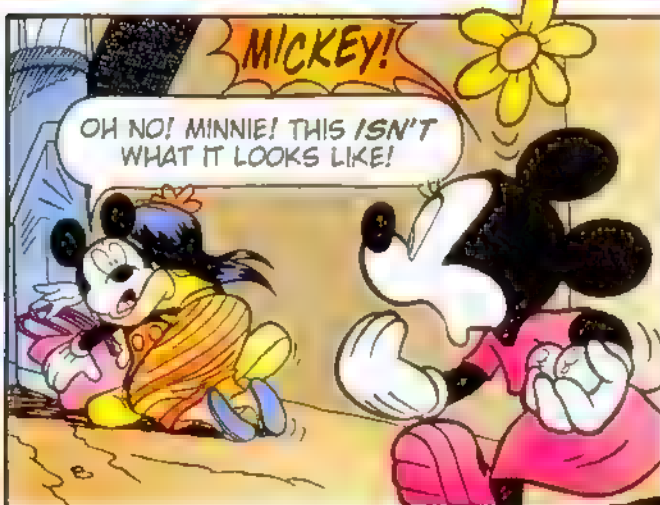
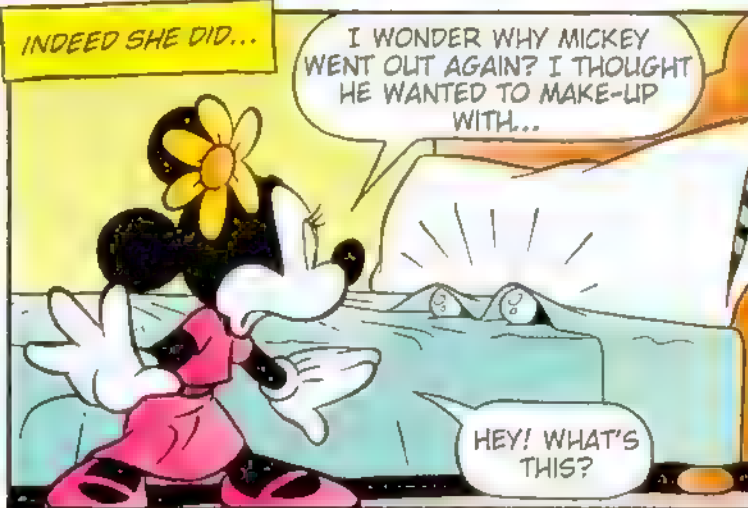
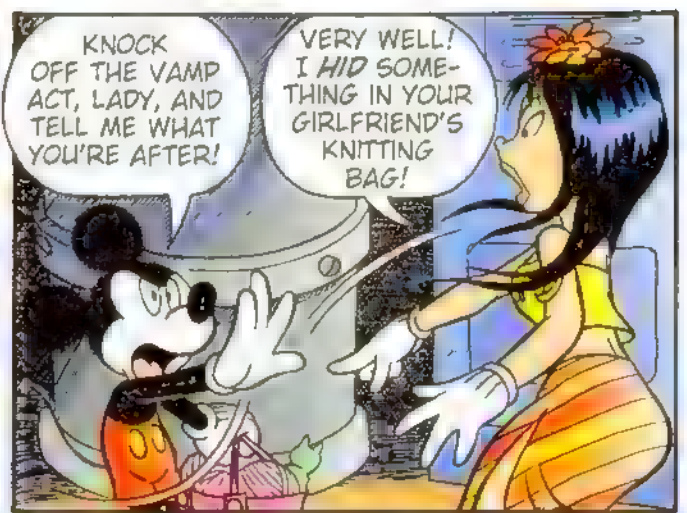
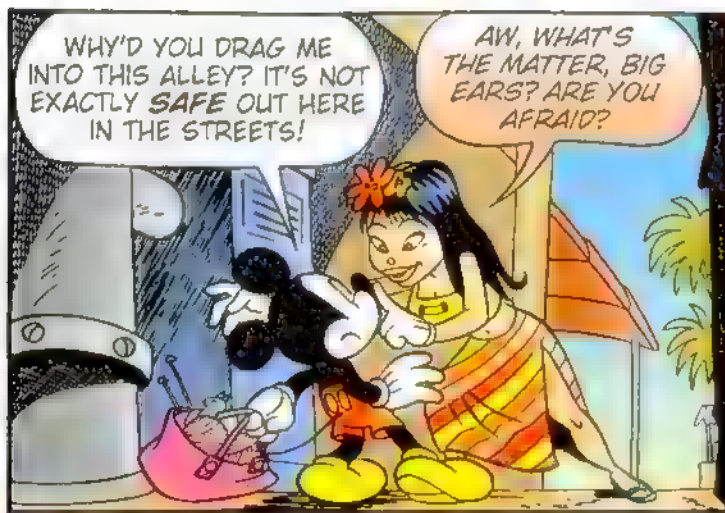


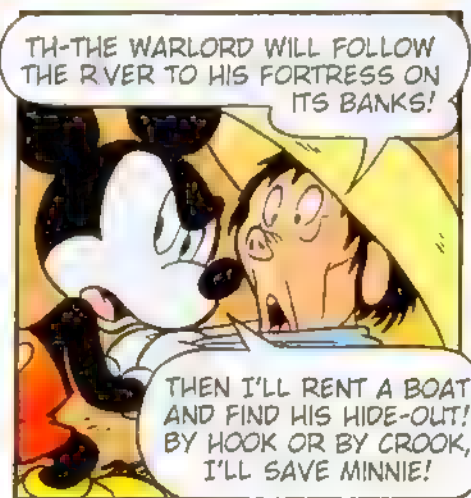
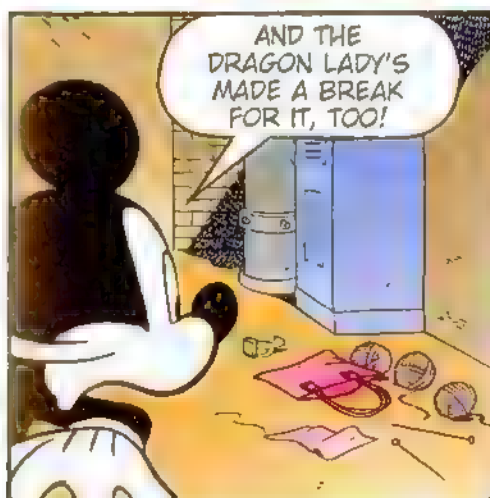
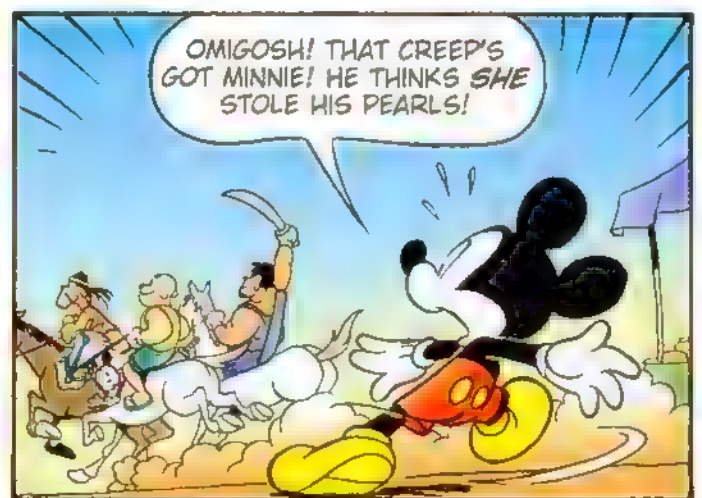
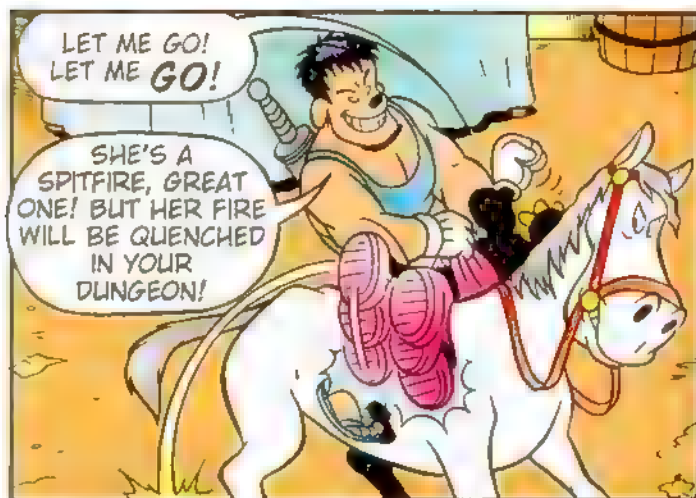
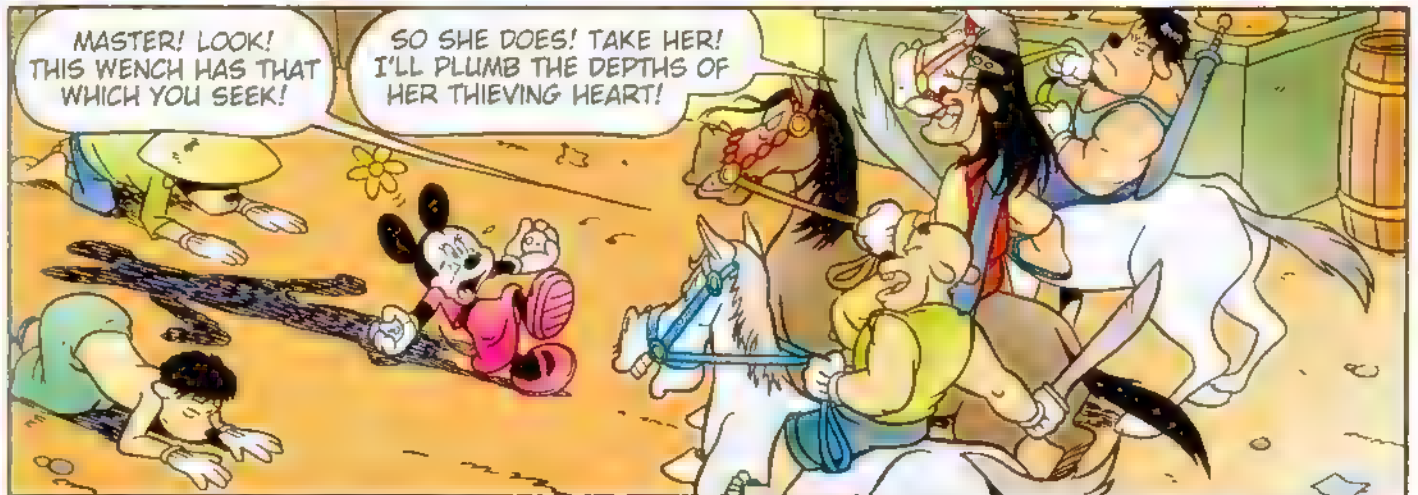
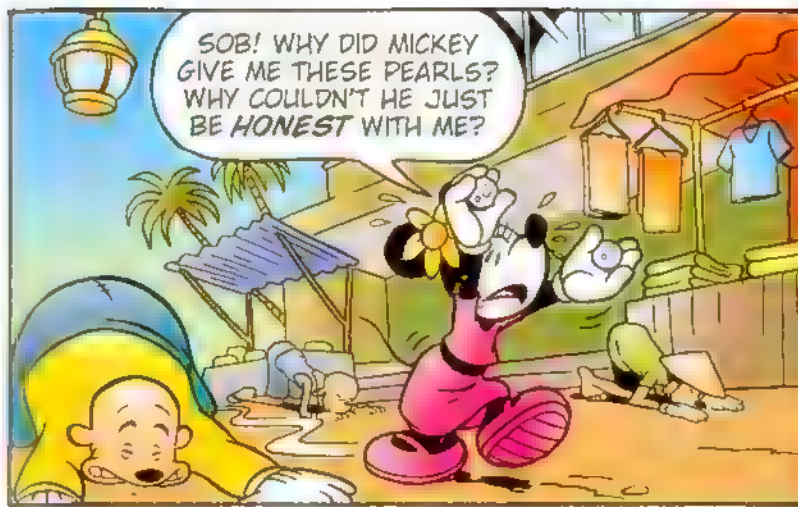
BACK IN THE
HOTEL SUITE...

MINNIE! I WAS AN OAF! PLEASE
ACCEPT MY APOLOGY! I'LL BE
HAPPY JUST TO SIT HERE AND
WATCH YOU KNIT!

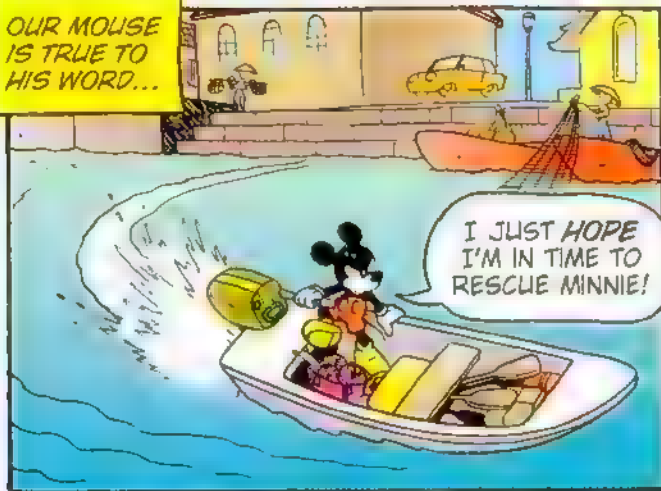
WHAT?!
SPEAK UP! I'M
STILL IN THE
SHOWER!



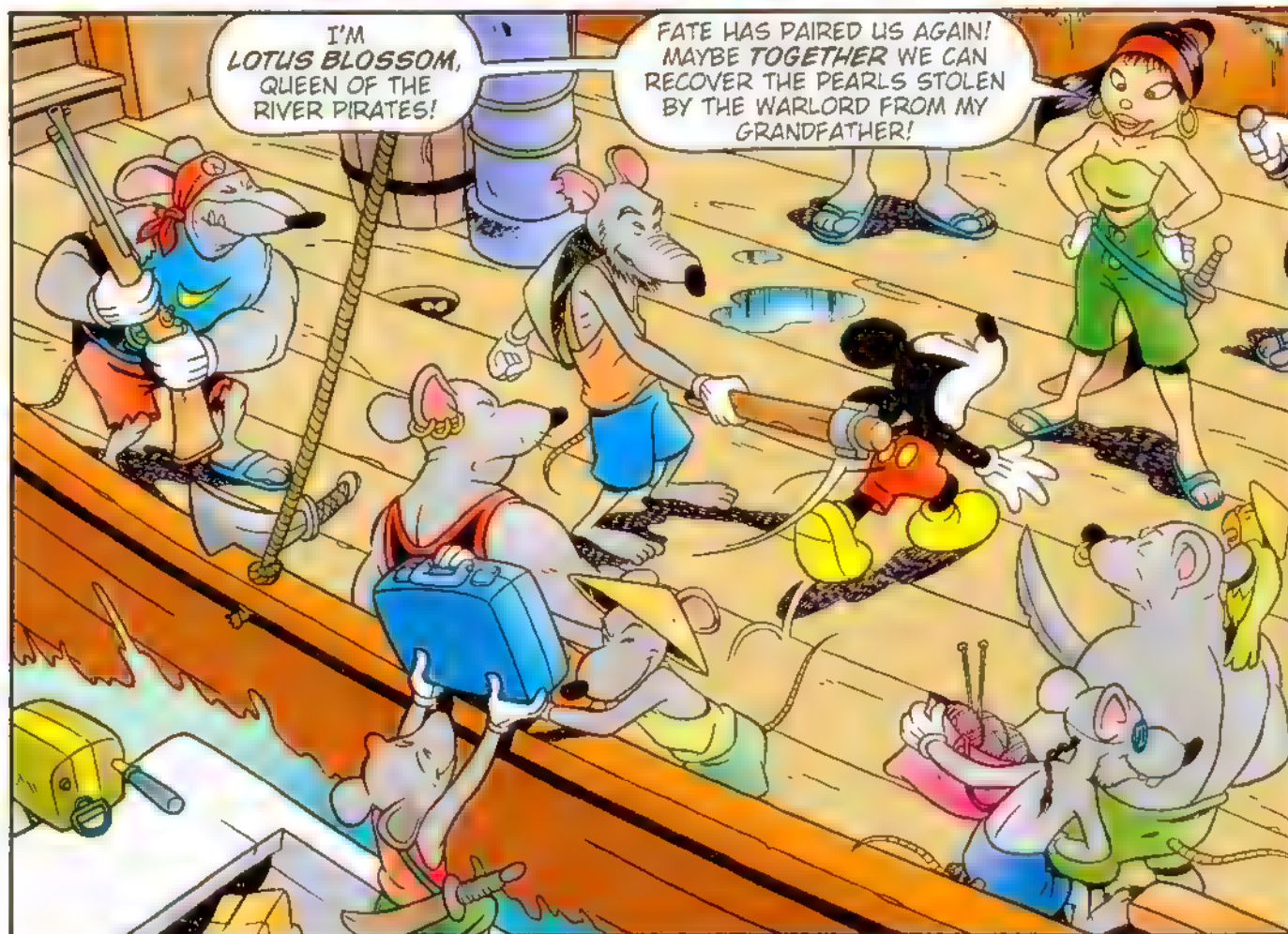
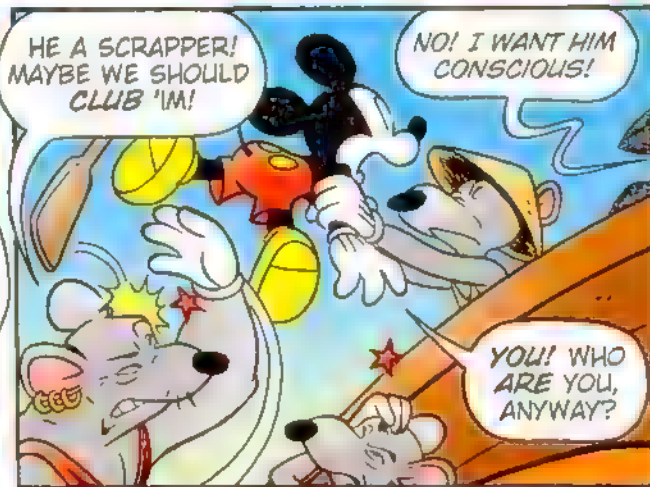
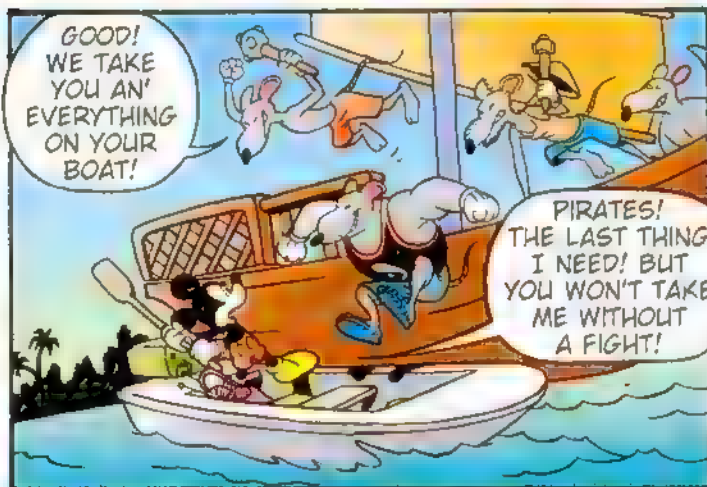
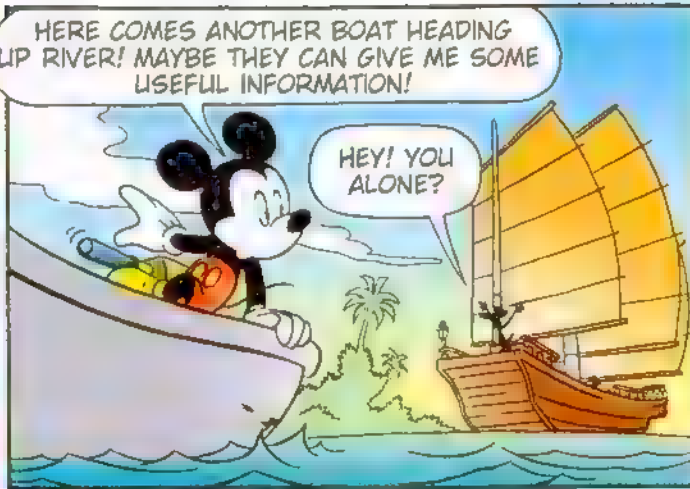




OUR MOUSE
IS TRUE TO
HIS WORD...



HERE COMES ANOTHER BOAT HEADING
UP RIVER! MAYBE THEY CAN GIVE ME SOME
USEFUL INFORMATION!



To be continued...

ACTION! SUSPENSE! ADVENTURE!



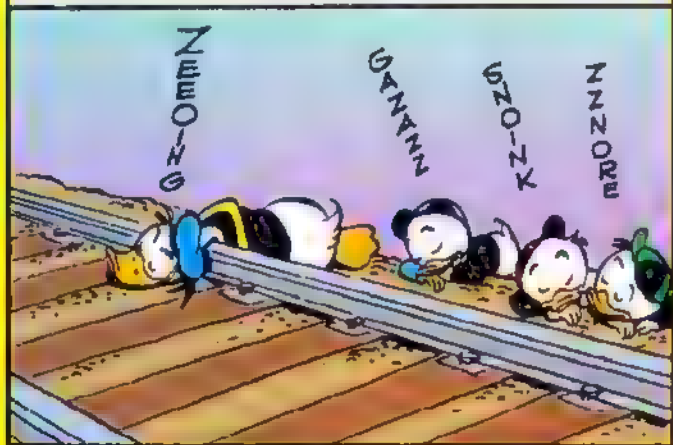
Will Donald survive
the perils that await
him in the pages of
"Dangerous Disguise"?
Find out in
the next issue of
Walt Disney's
"Vacation Parade 2,"
available at your local
comic book store
in May of 2005.



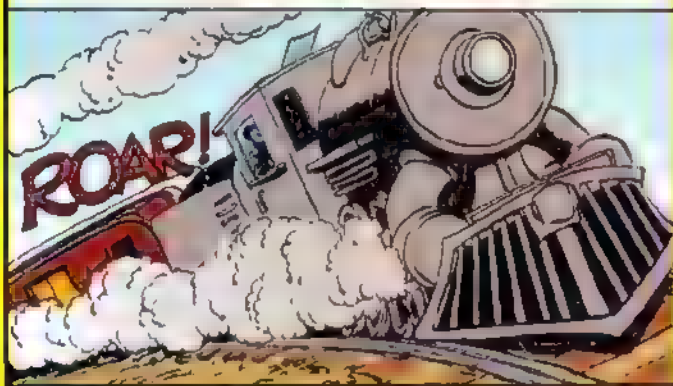
Walt Disney's
**VACATION
PARADE 2**

©2005 Disney
Enterprises, Inc.

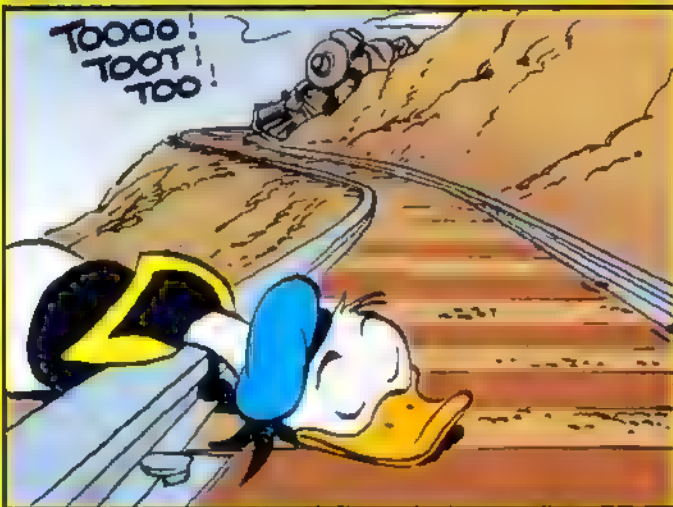
THE DUCKS SLEEP
ON AND ON AND ON!



WHILE THE CANNONBALL EXPRESS
ROARS NEARER AND NEARER!



TOOOO!
TOOT
TOO!



IN STORES NOW!

From the pages of Marvel Comics' Spider-Man™ titles comes the Marvel Select Doctor Octopus™ and Spider-Man Action Figures. Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles and sculptor Sam Greenwell now present these two hand-somely produced figures for the price of one with this much-anticipated release!

Both of these Mighty Marvel action figures come packaged in a deluxe blister card package and have multiple points of articulation. Doctor Octopus also comes with mechanical arm accessories.

Designed and produced by Toy Biz for Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles.



DOCTOR OCTOPUS

SCULPTED BY SAM GREENWELL

ONLY AVAILABLE IN SPECIALTY STORES!



www.marvel.com



www.diamondselecttoys.com



www.comicshoplocation.com

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The THREE CABALLEROS

By
WALT
DISNEY

WHAT'S YOUR NAMES,
YOUNG FELLAS??



WHAT A SEELLY QUESTION
YOU TALK! EVEREEBODEE
KNOW US!!



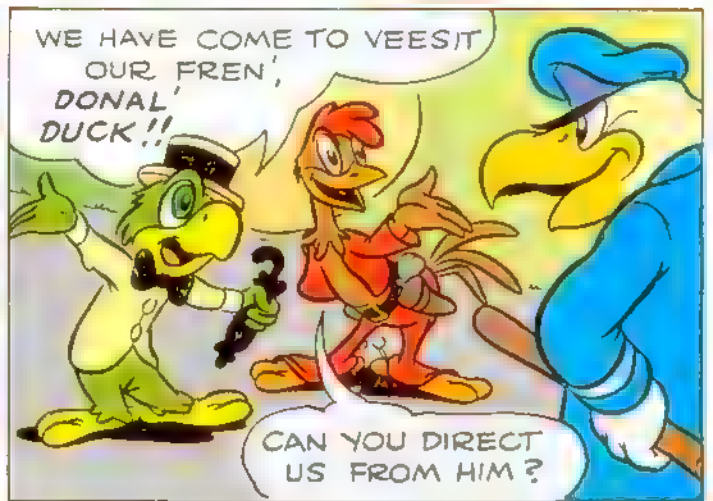
I AM
JOSE
CARIOCA,
.... FROM
BRAZIL
!!



AND I AM
SENOR
PANCHITO...
.... FROM
MEXICO!

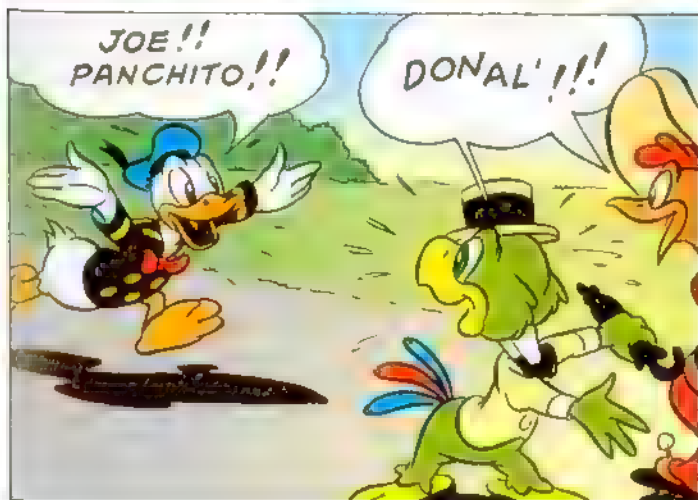


WELL! WELL! GLAD TO MEET
YOU! NOW WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU!



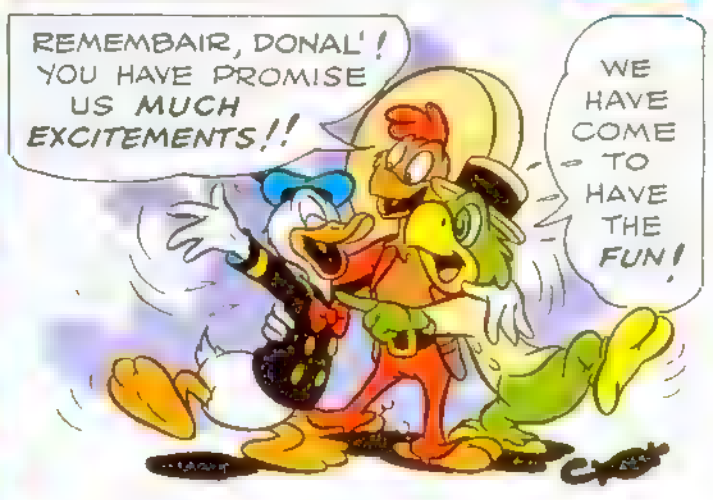
WE HAVE COME TO VEESIT
OUR FREN',
DONAL'
DUCK!!

CAN YOU DIRECT
US FROM HIM?



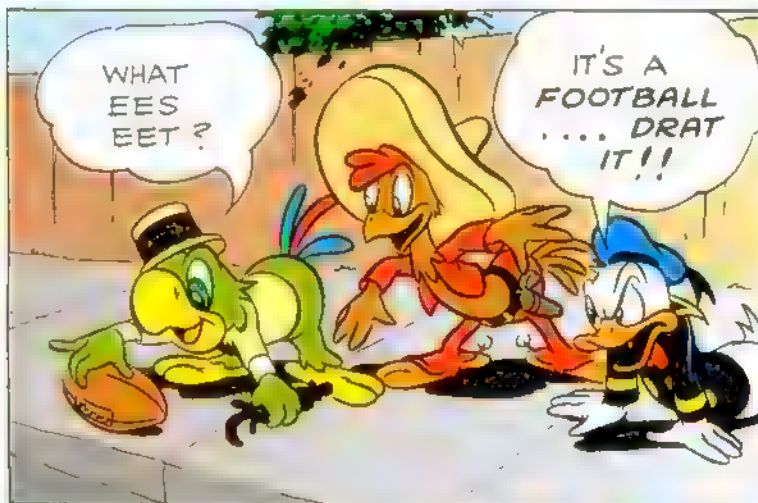
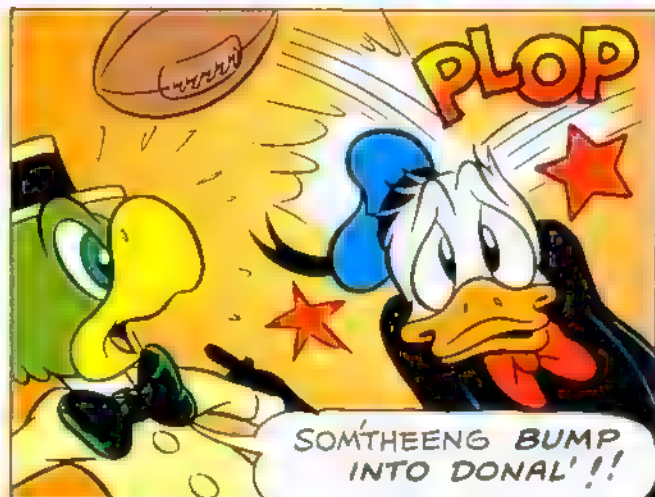
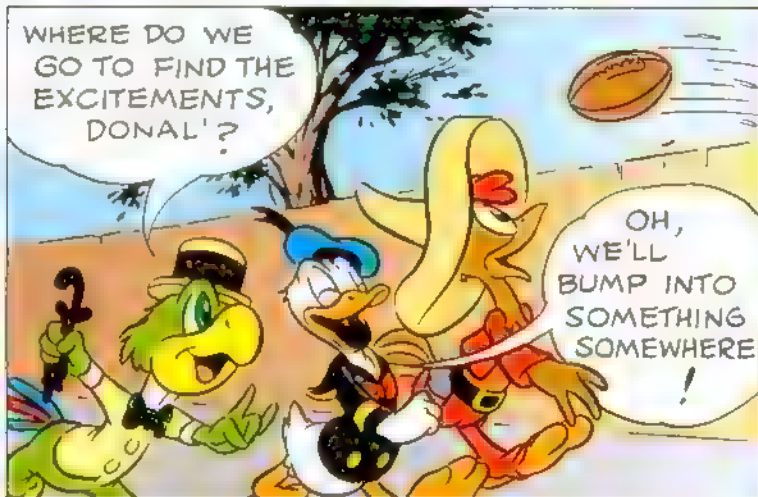
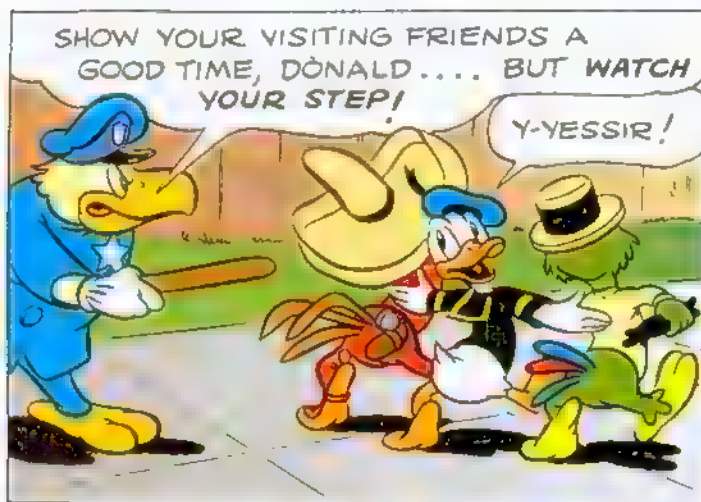
JOE!!
PANCHITO!!

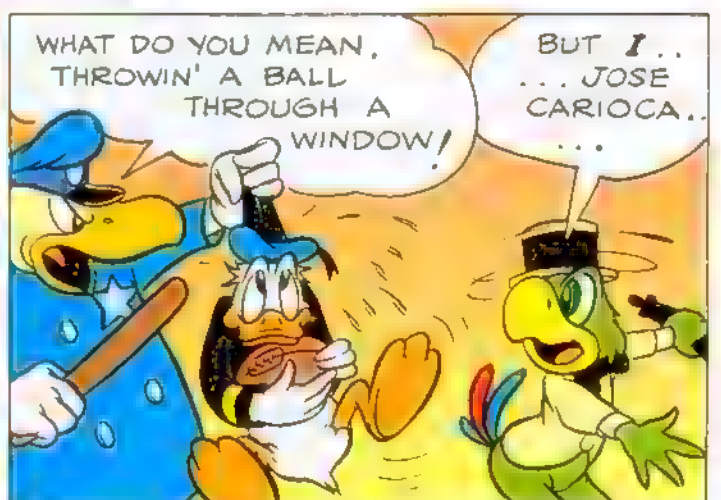
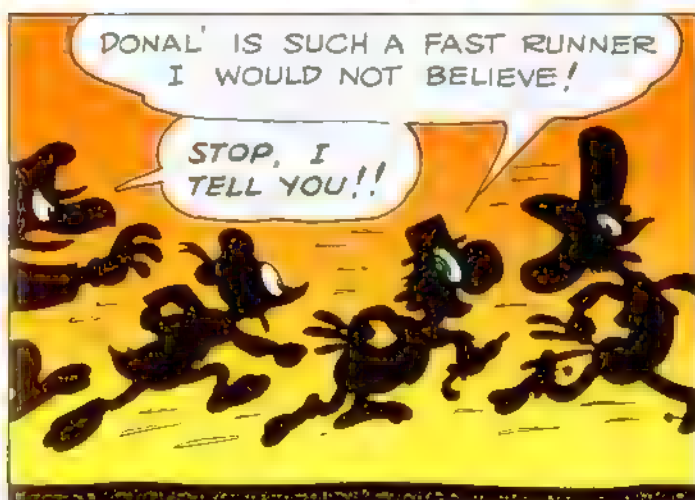
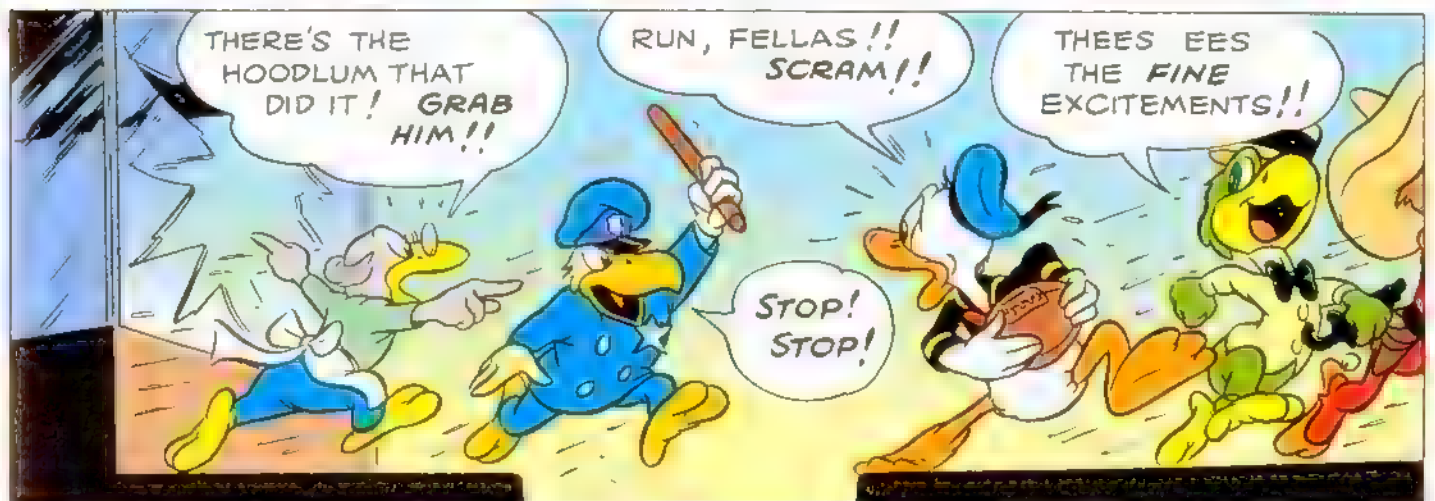
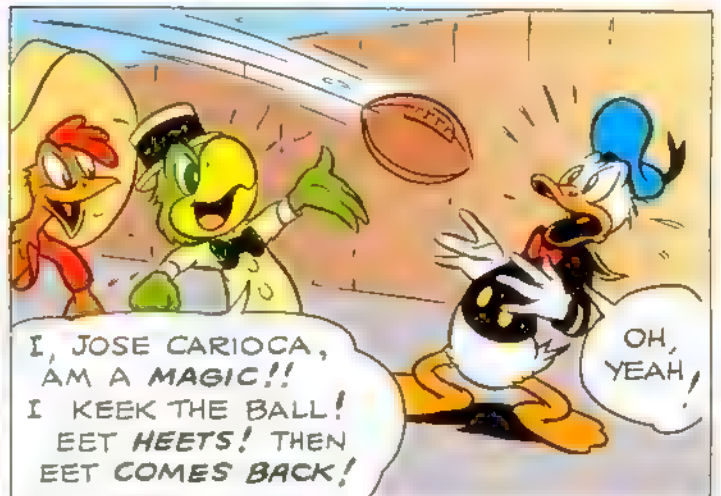
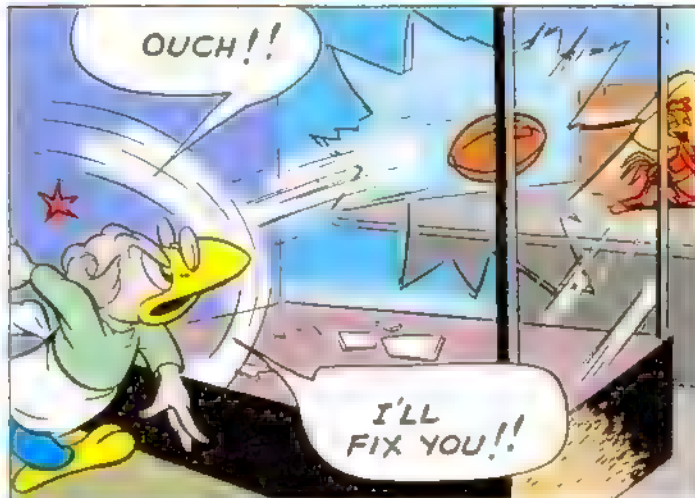
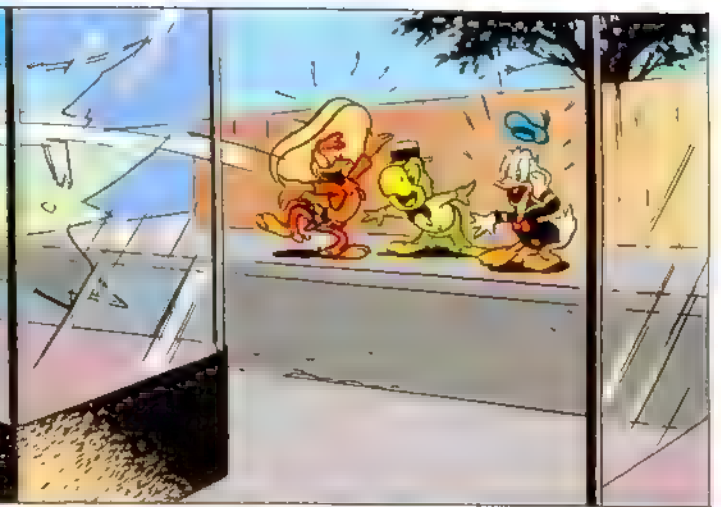
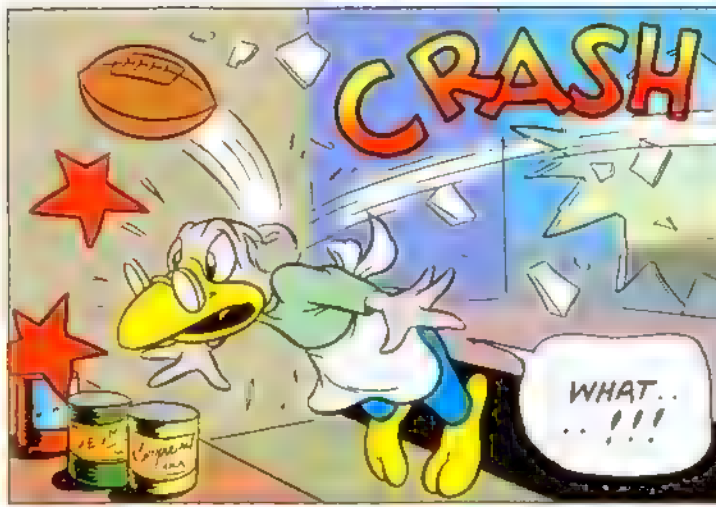
DONAL'!!!

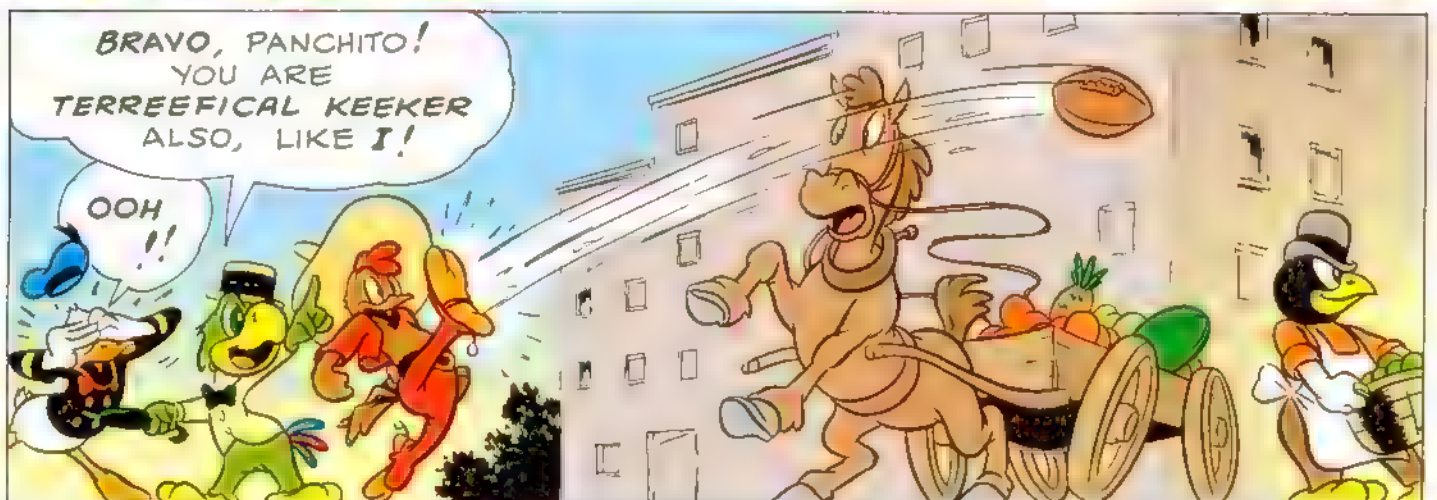
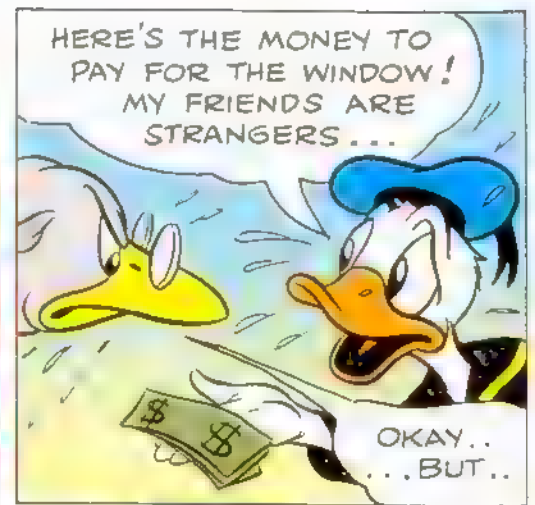
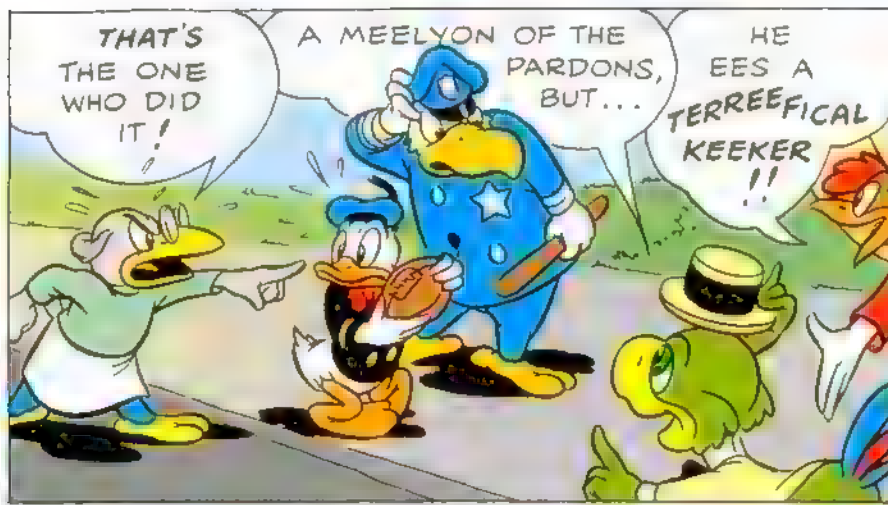


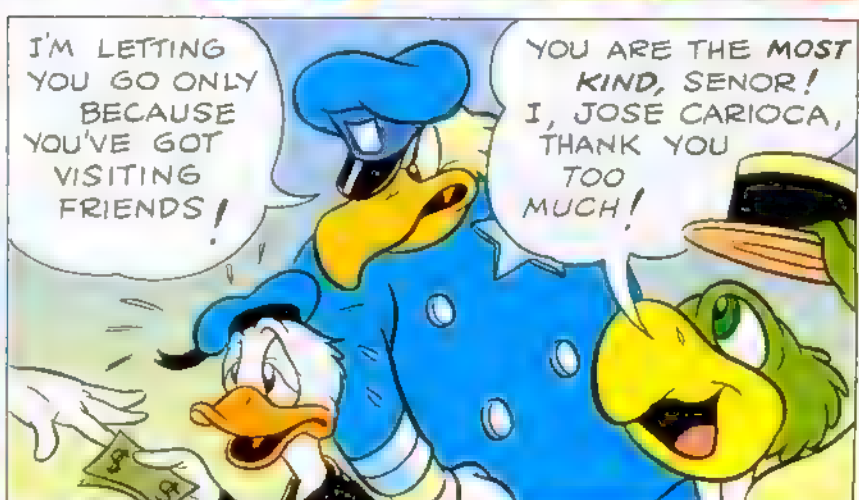
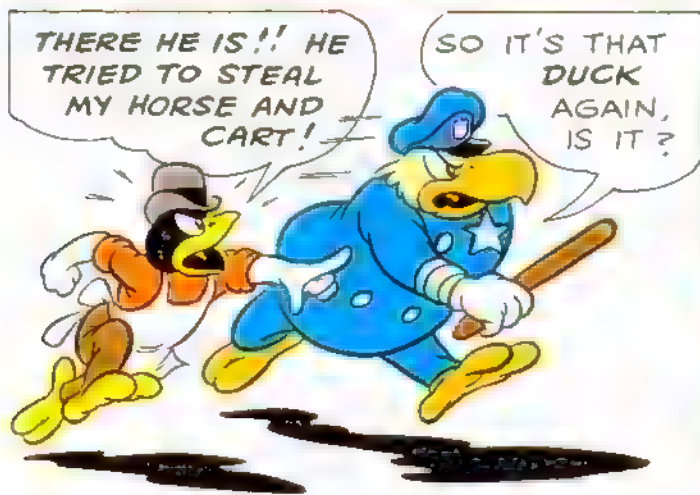
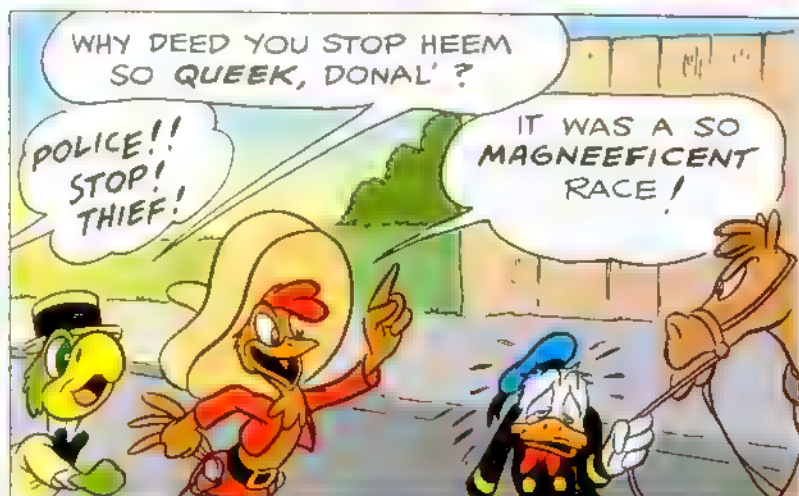
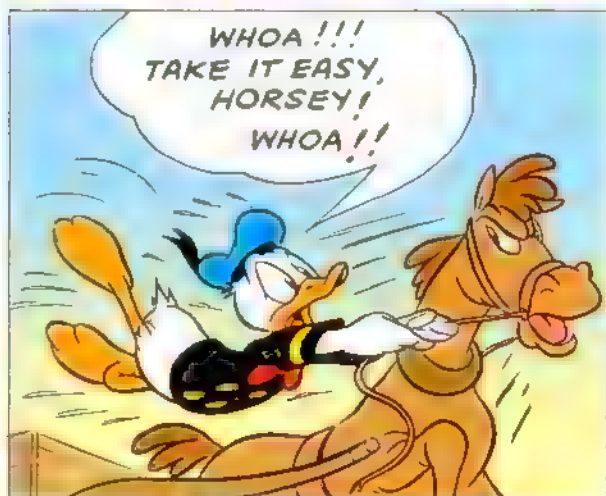
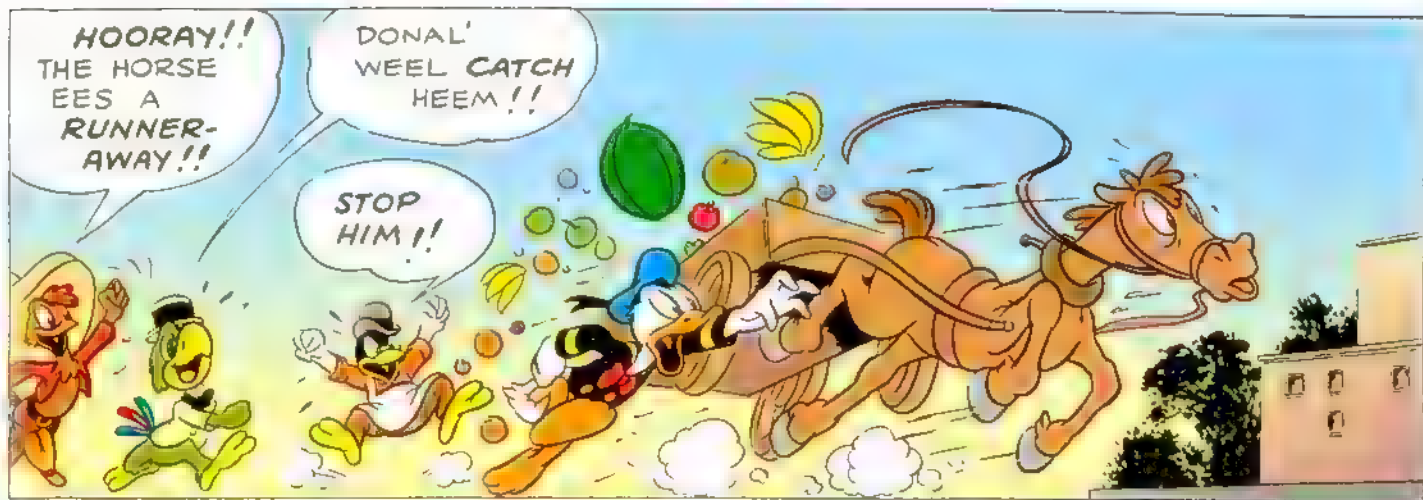
REMEMBAIR, DONAL'!
YOU HAVE PROMISE
US MUCH
EXCITEMENTS!!

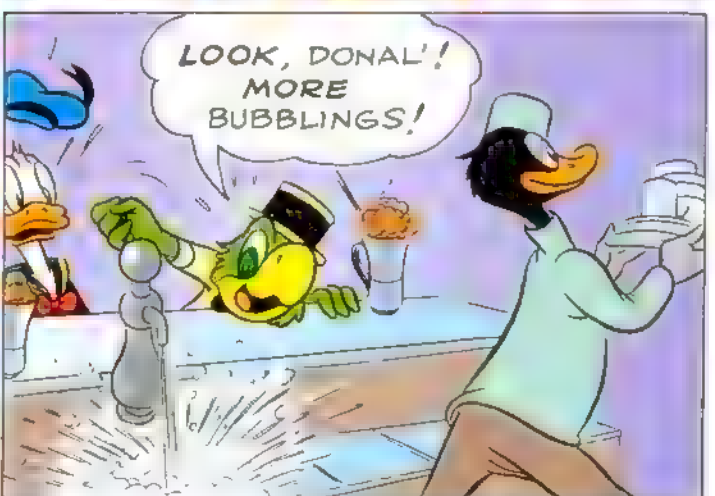
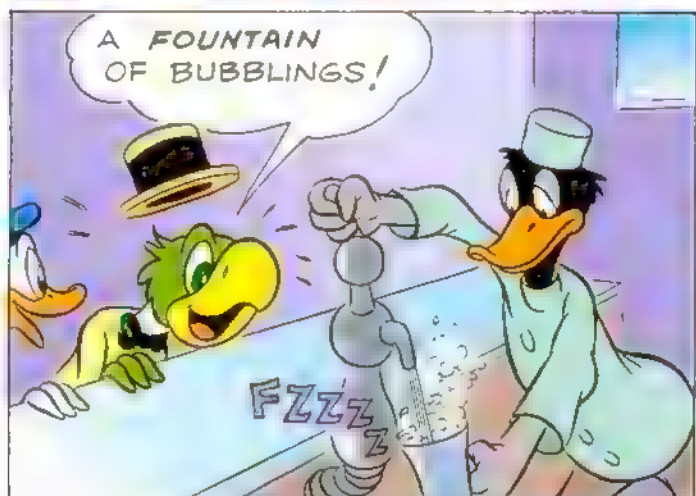
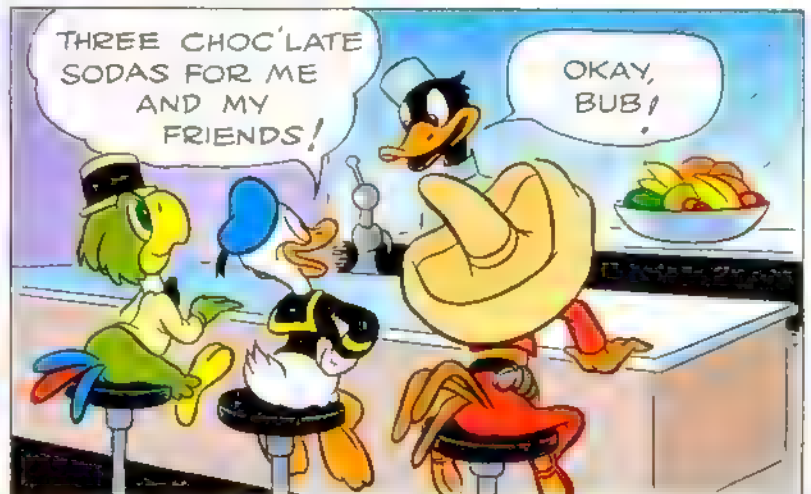
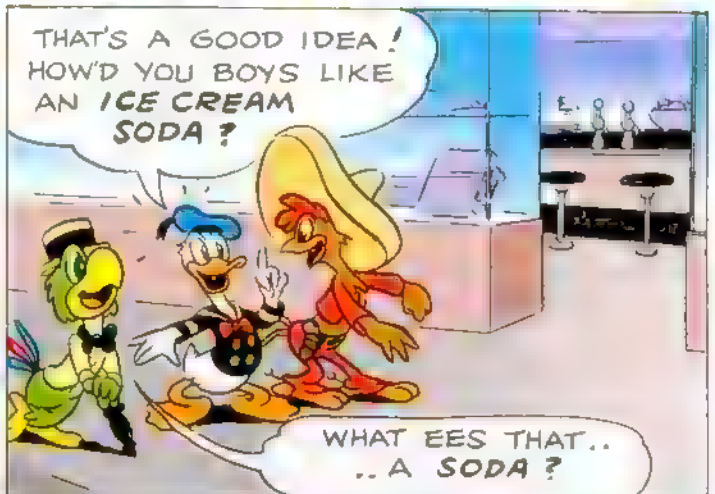
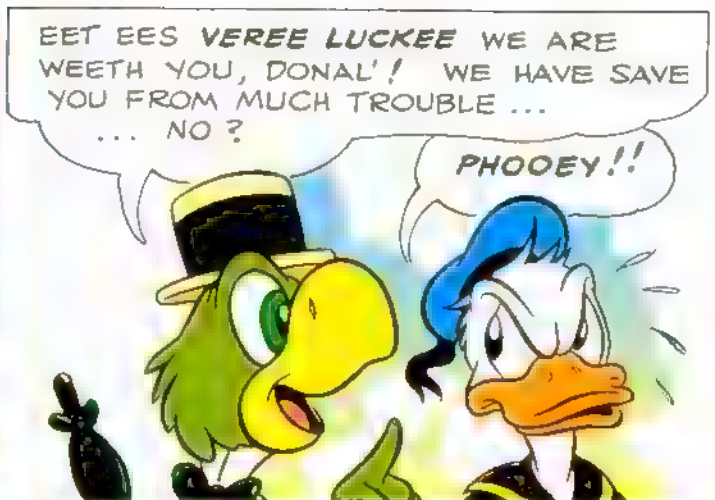
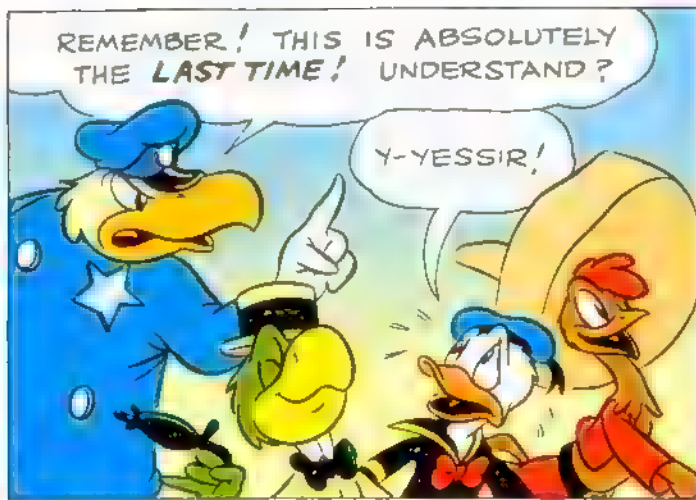
WE
HAVE
COME
- TO
HAVE
THE
FUN!

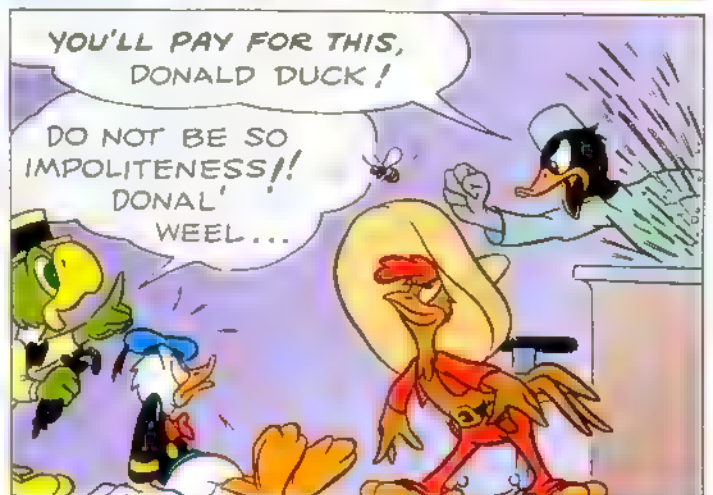
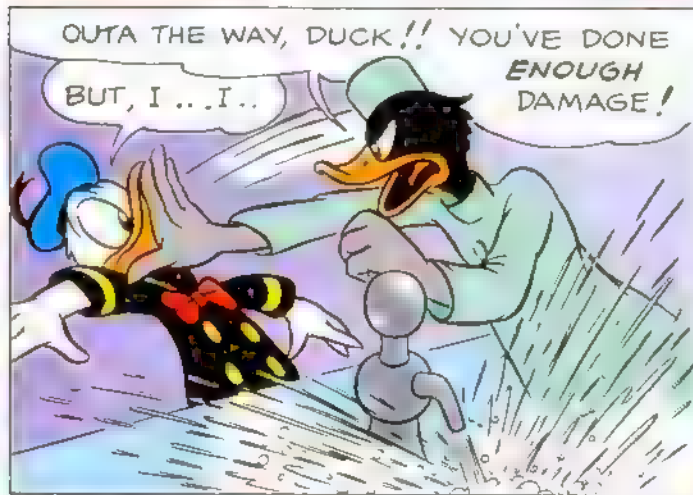
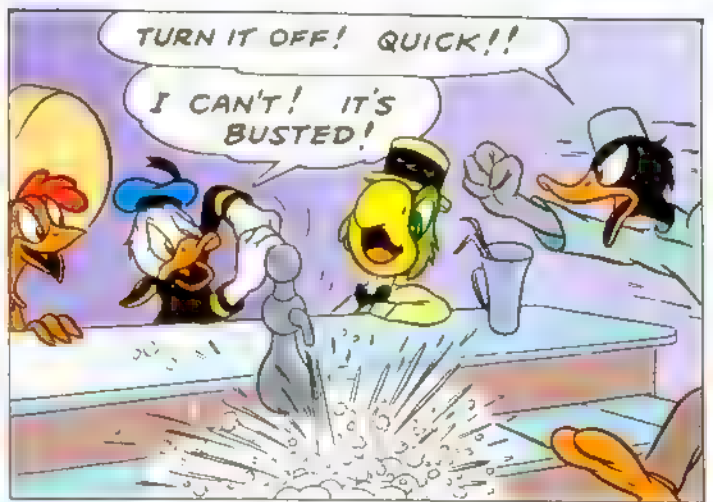


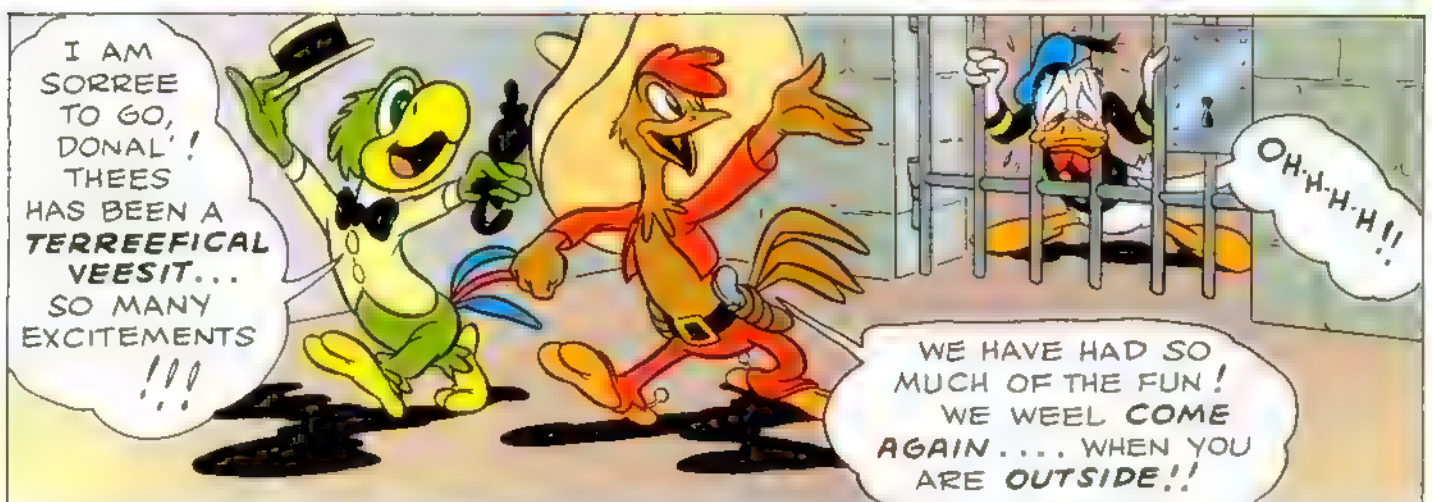
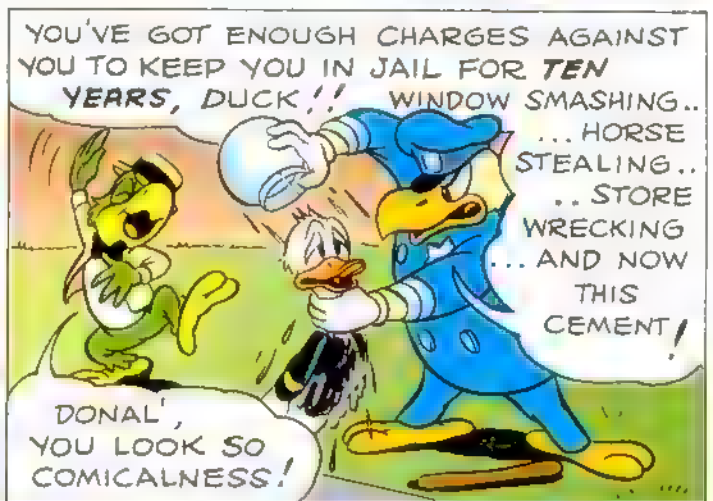
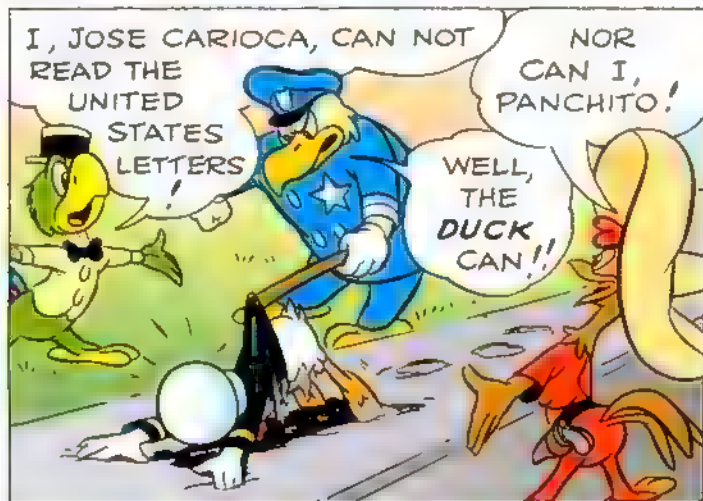
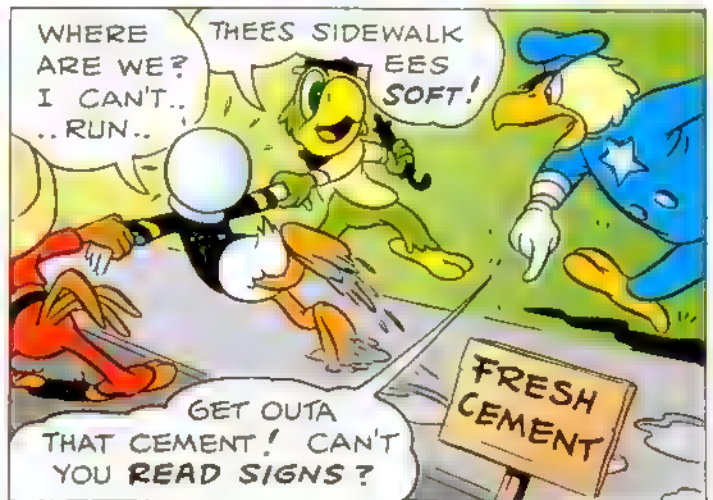
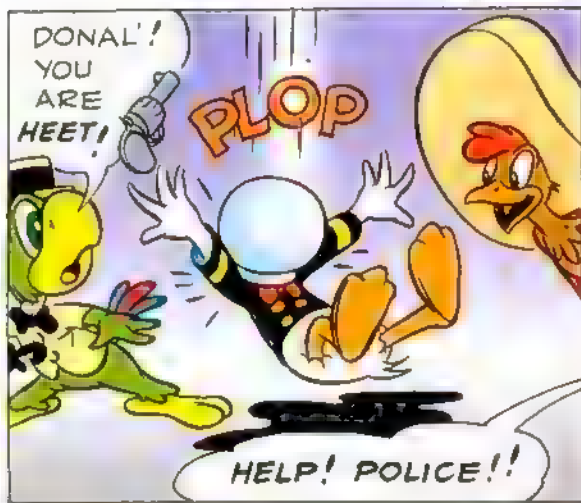








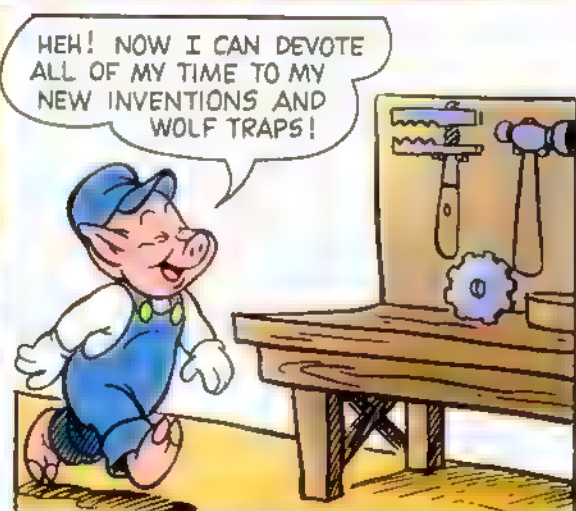
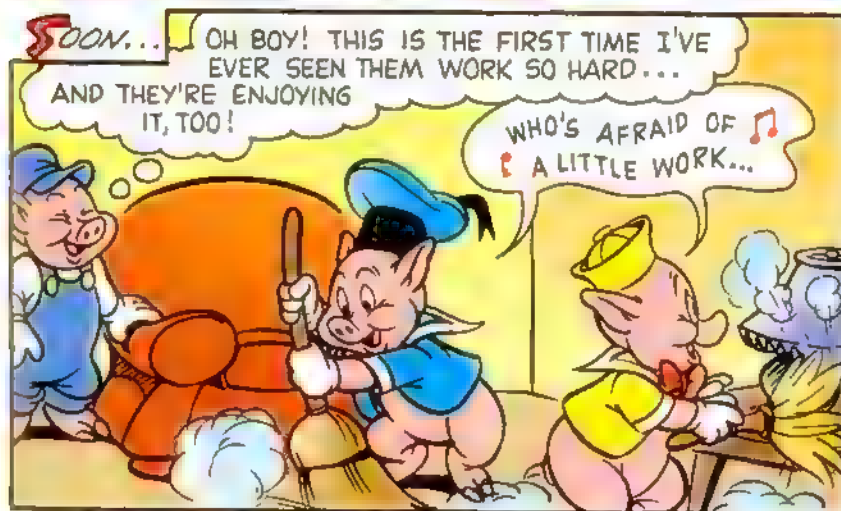
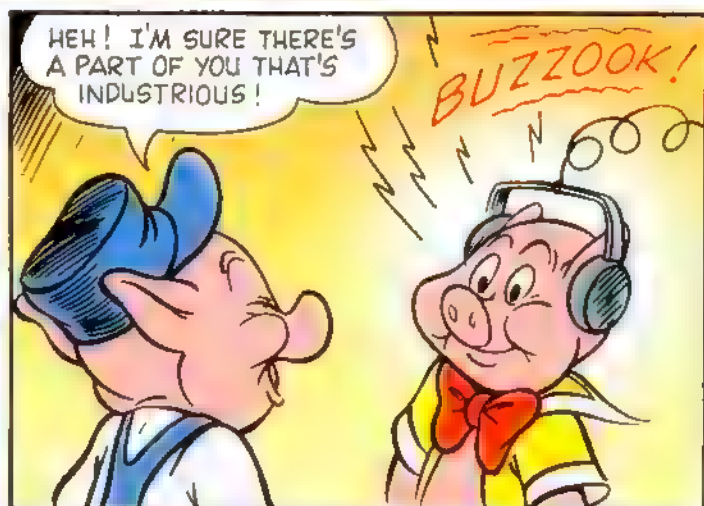
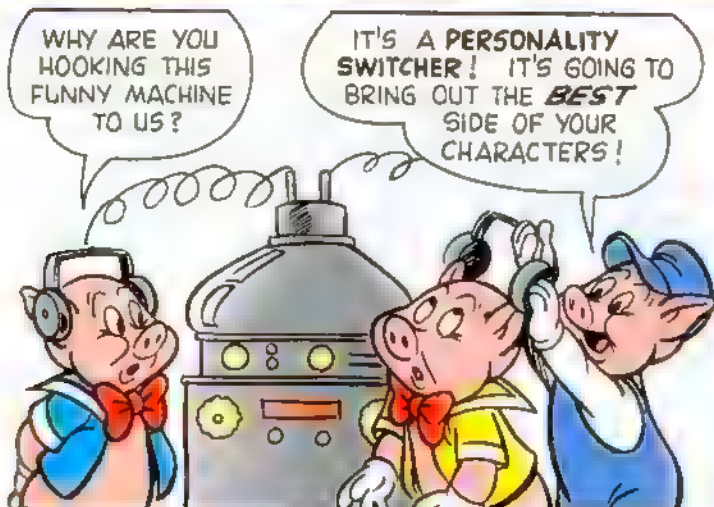
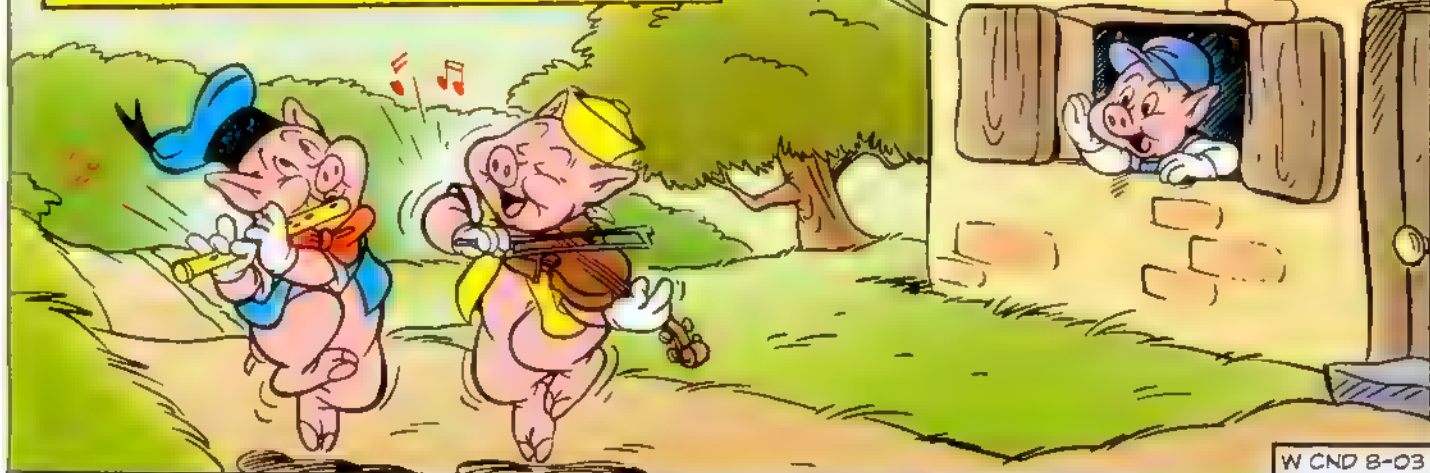


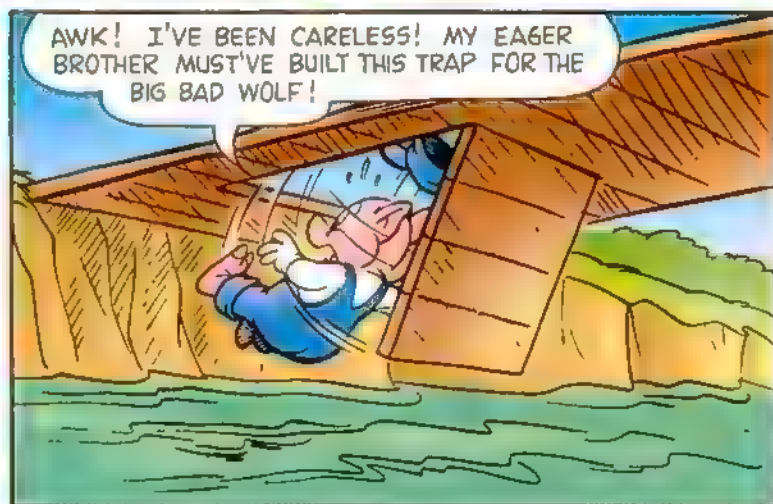
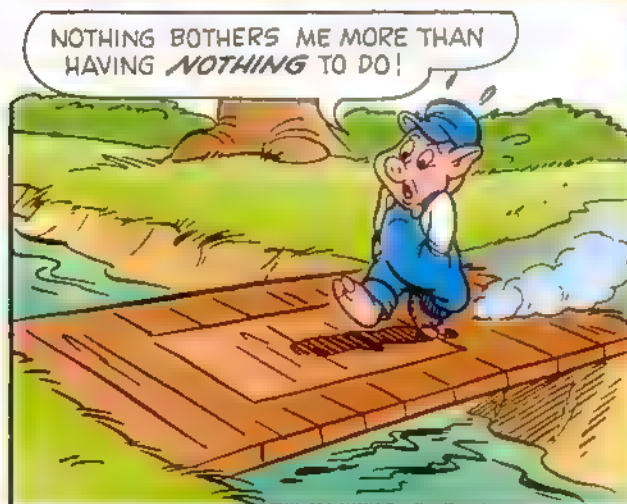
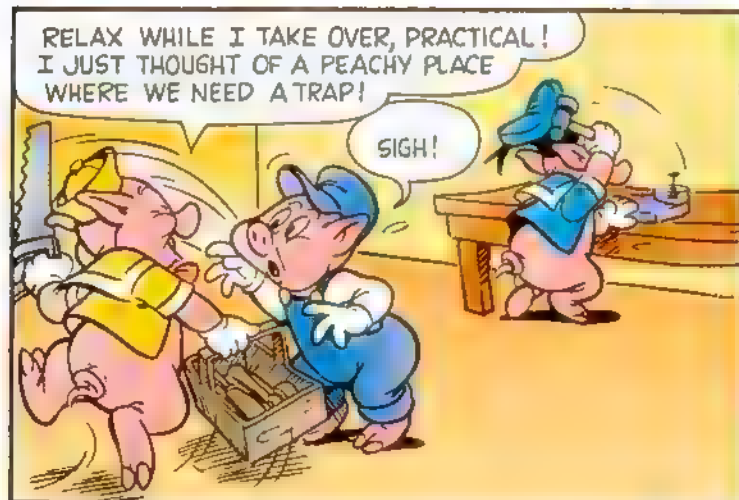
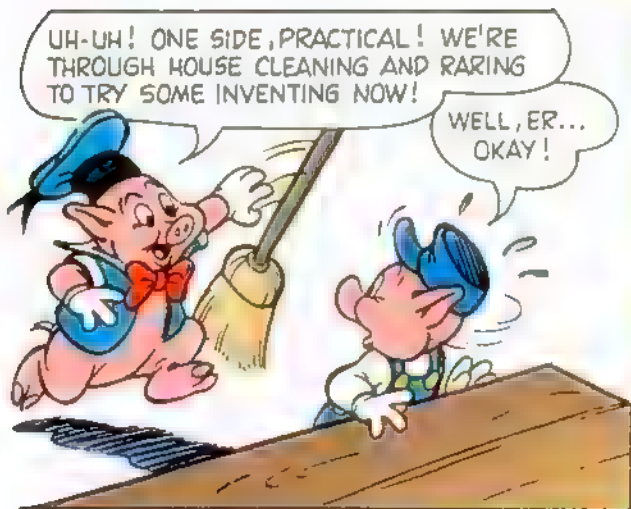


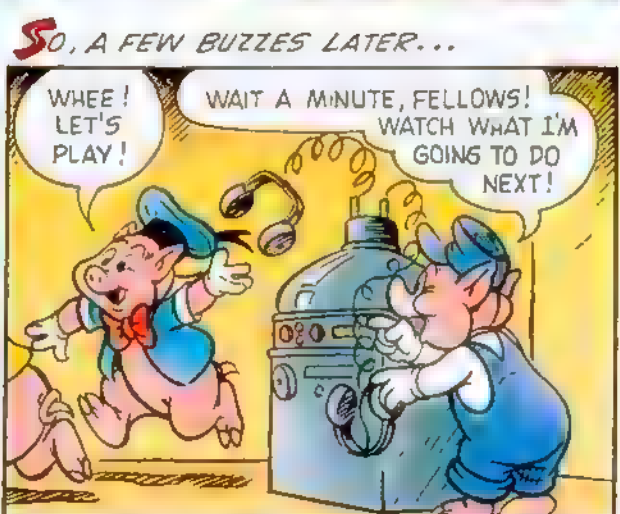
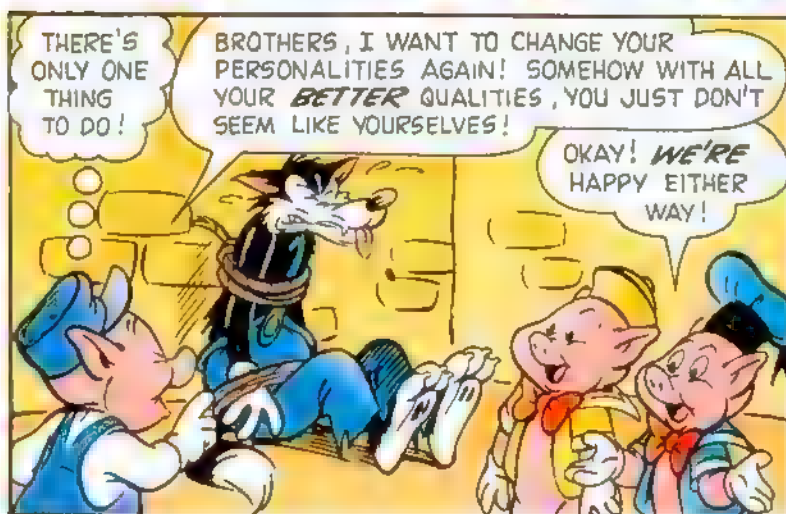
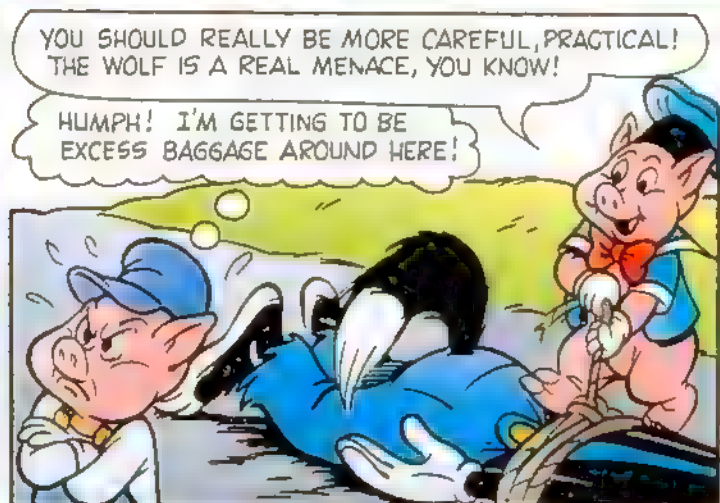
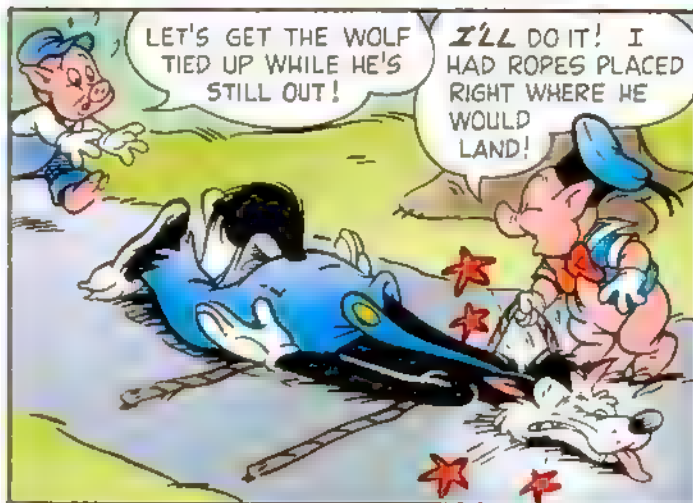
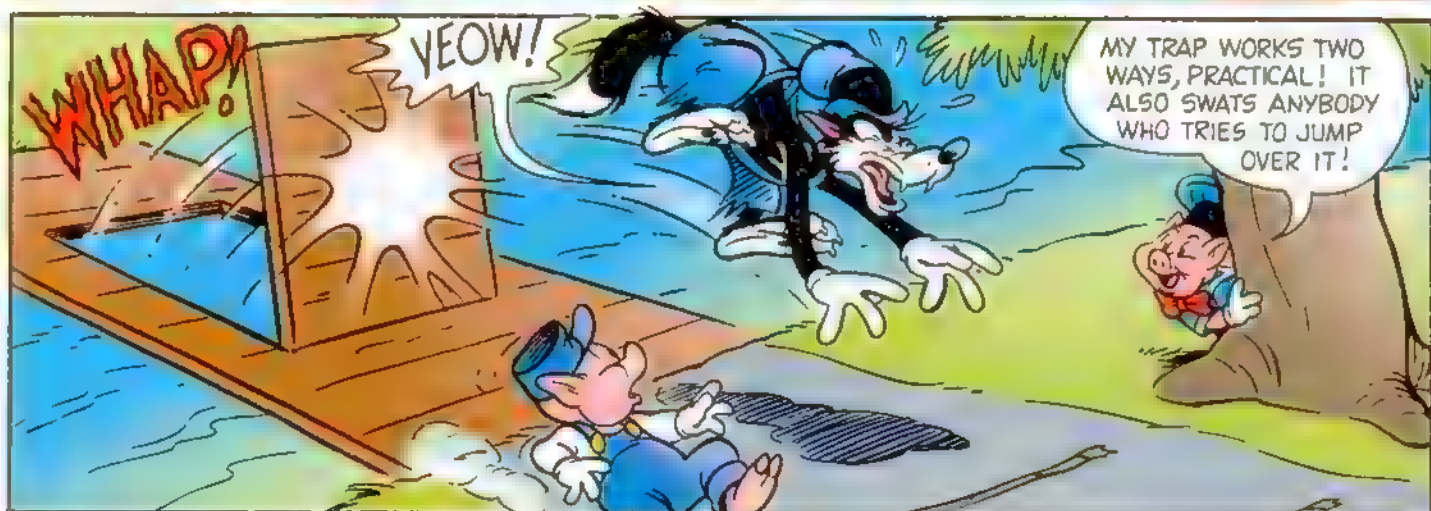
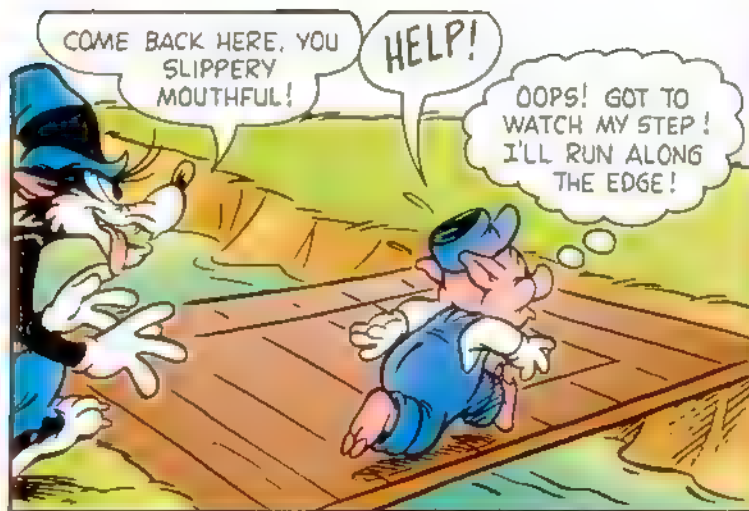
WALT DISNEY

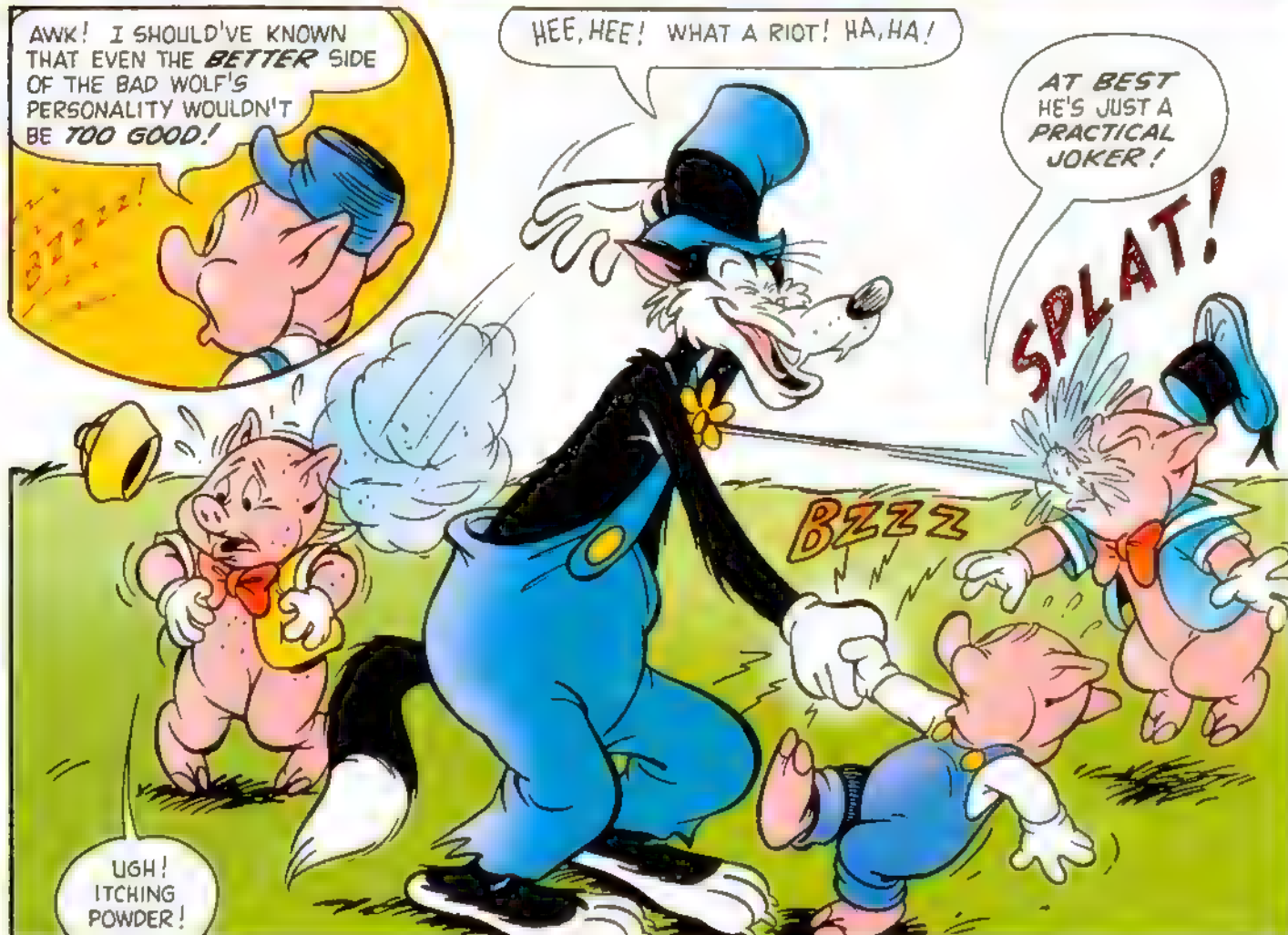
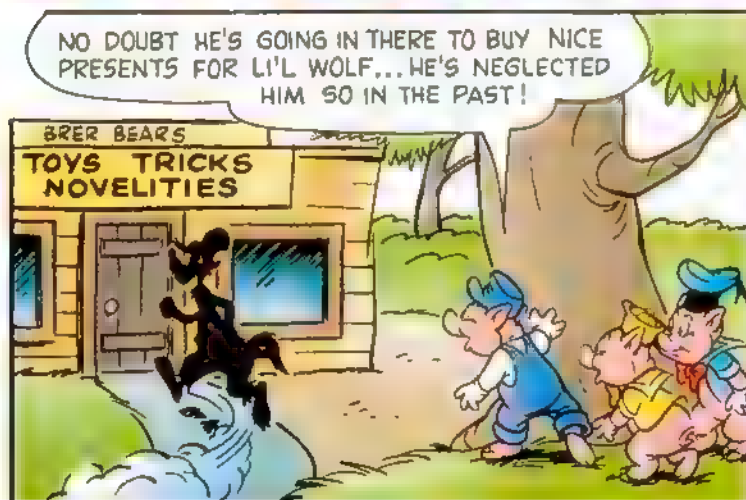
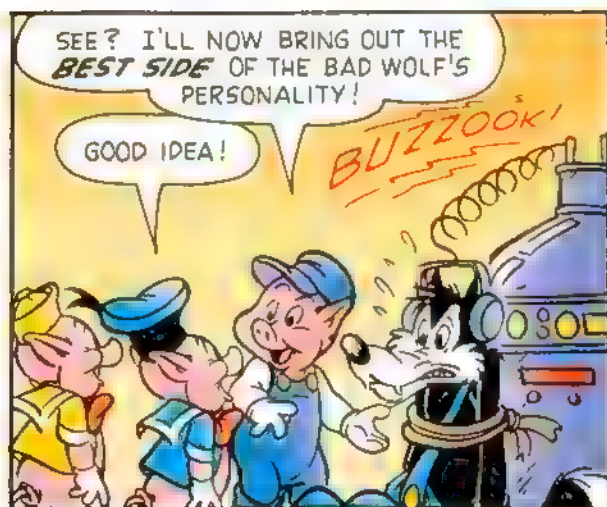
the THREE LITTLE PIGS

in PERSONALITY PERFECTION



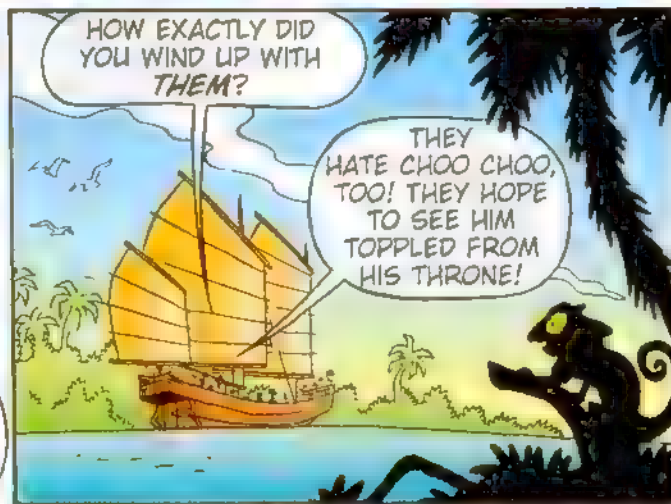
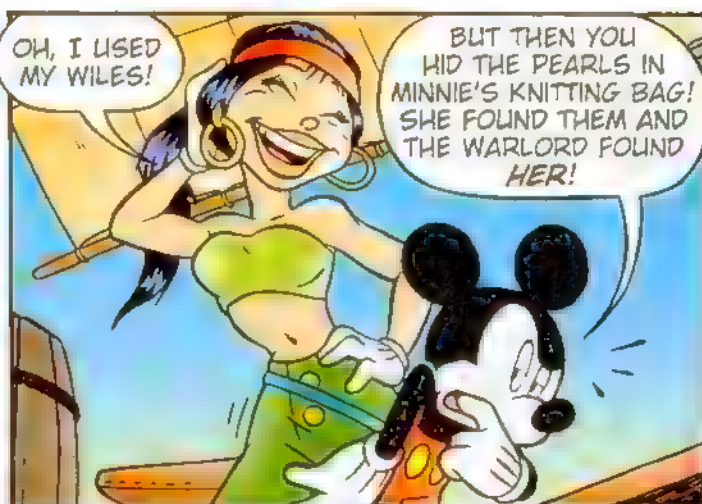
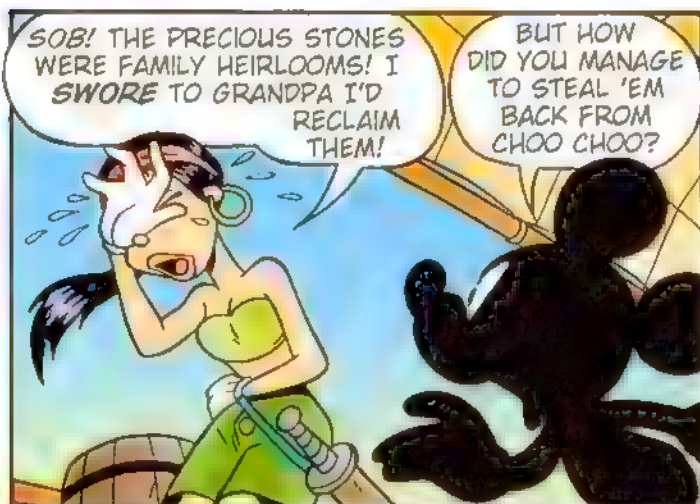
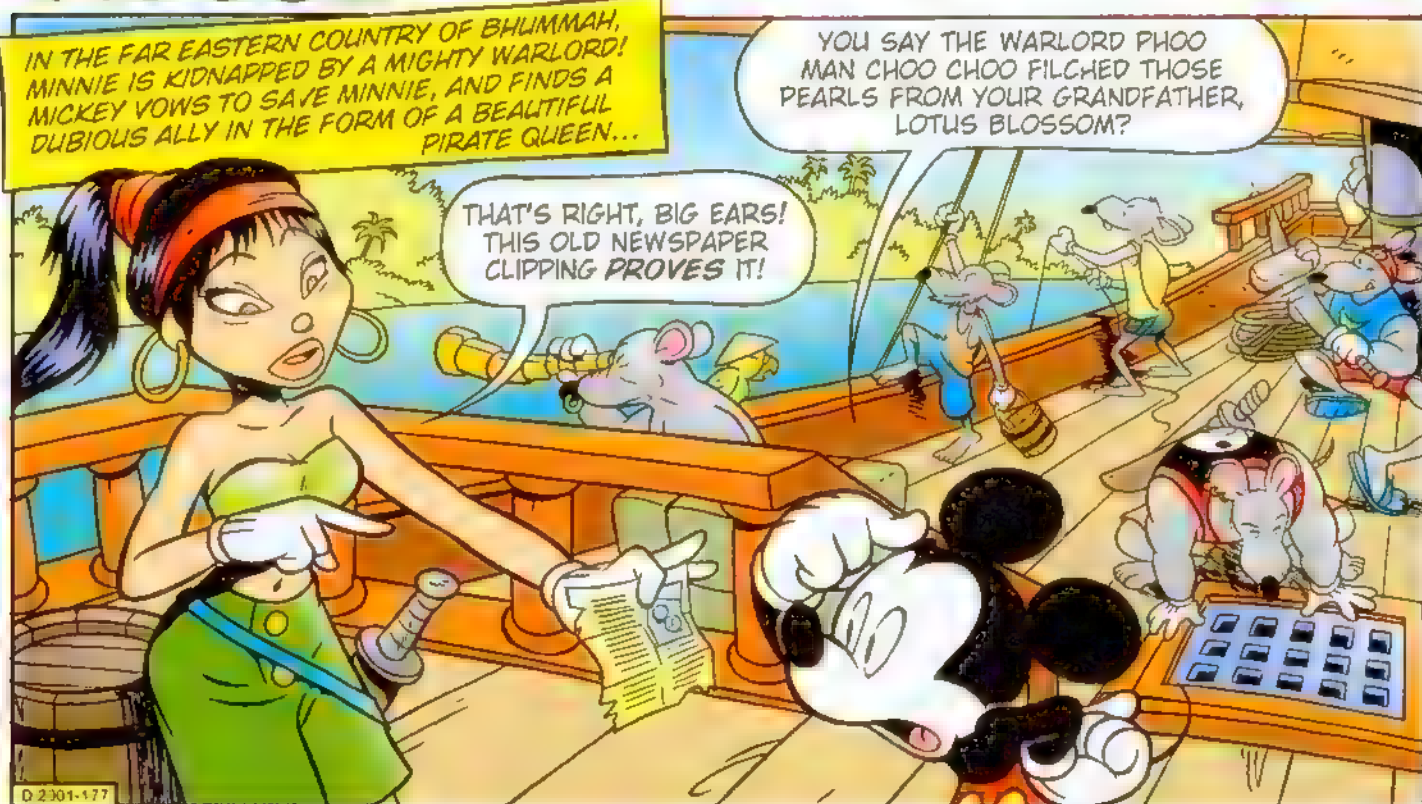






Knit One, Pearl Two

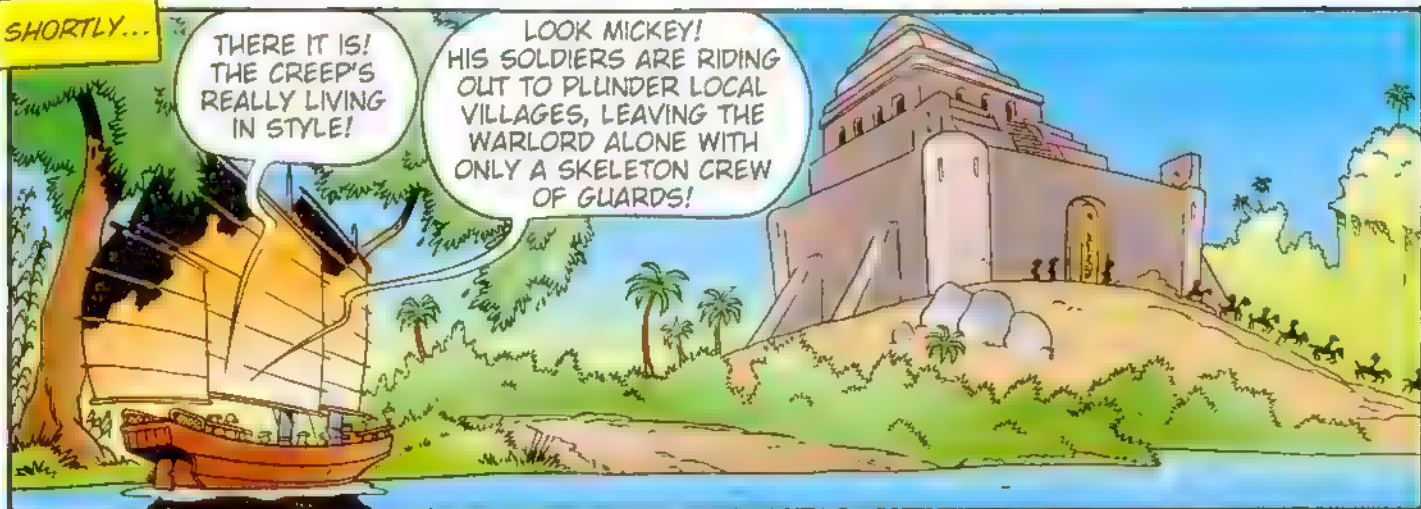
Part 2



SHORTLY...

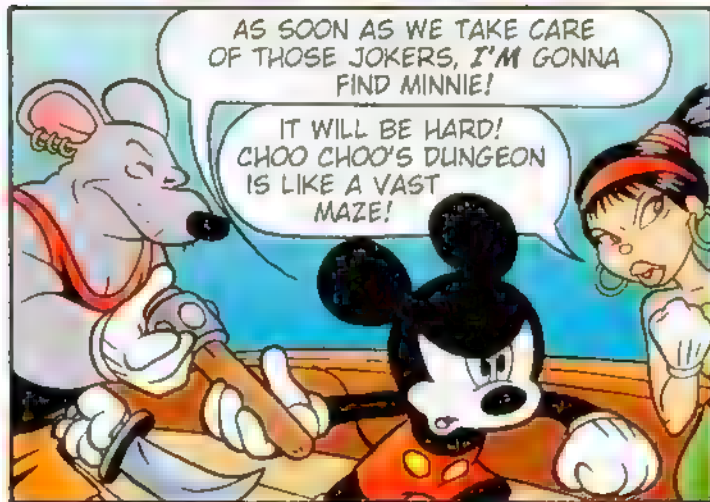
THERE IT IS!
THE CREEP'S
REALLY LIVING
IN STYLE!

LOOK MICKEY!
HIS SOLDIERS ARE RIDING
OUT TO PLUNDER LOCAL
VILLAGES, LEAVING THE
WARLORD ALONE WITH
ONLY A SKELETON CREW
OF GUARDS!



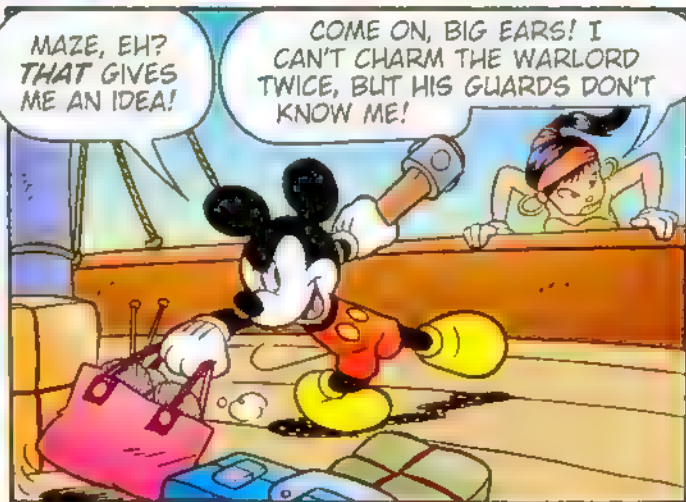
AS SOON AS WE TAKE CARE
OF THOSE JOKERS, I'M GONNA
FIND MINNIE!

IT WILL BE HARD!
CHOO CHOO'S DUNGEON
IS LIKE A VAST
MAZE!



MAZE, EH?
THAT GIVES
ME AN IDEA!

COME ON, BIG EARS! I
CAN'T CHARM THE WARLORD
TWICE, BUT HIS GUARDS DON'T
KNOW ME!

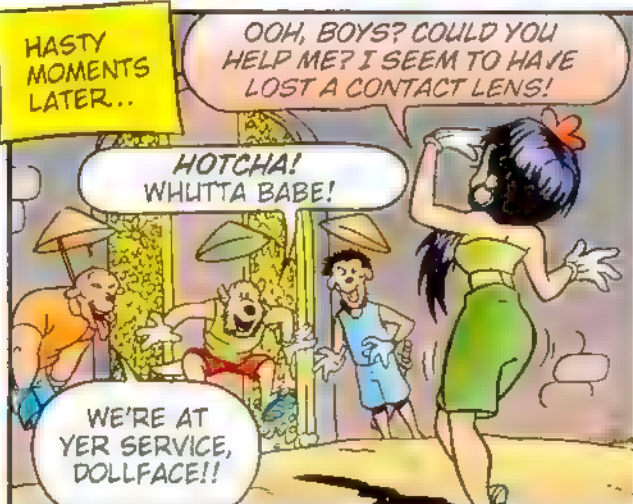


HASTY
MOMENTS
LATER...

OOH, BOYS? COULD YOU
HELP ME? I SEEM TO HAVE
LOST A CONTACT LENS!

HOTCHA!
WHUTTA BABE!

WE'RE AT
YER SERVICE,
DOLLFACE!!



IT'S HERE IN THE DIRT SOMEWHERE!

NO PROB!

THINK I SEE IT!

GET READY,
MEN...

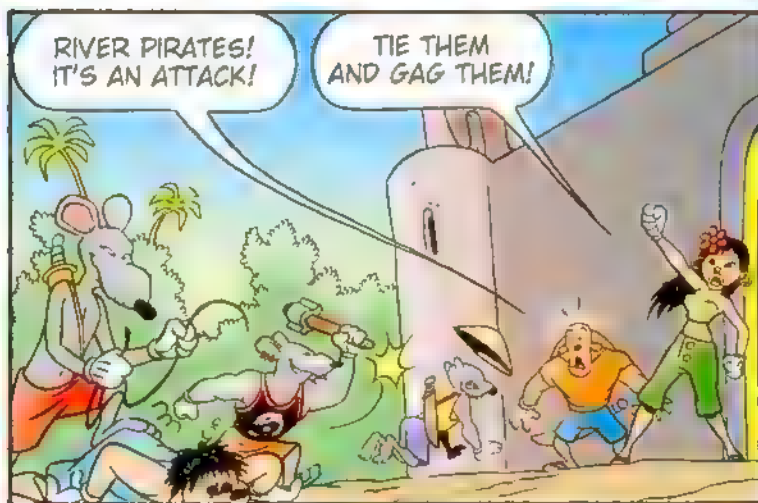


GO!!



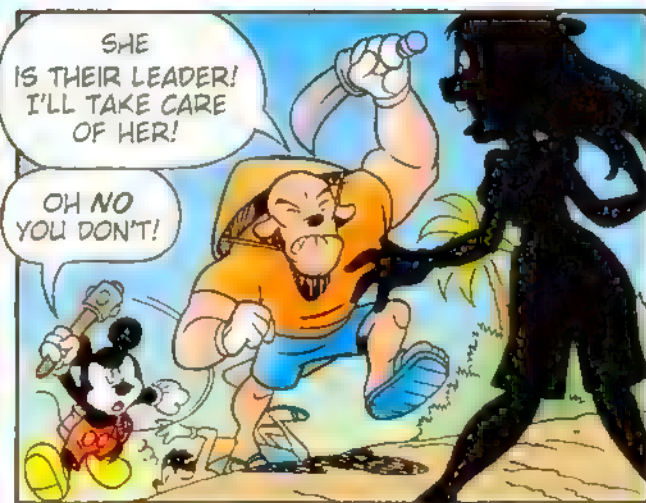
RIVER PIRATES!
IT'S AN ATTACK!

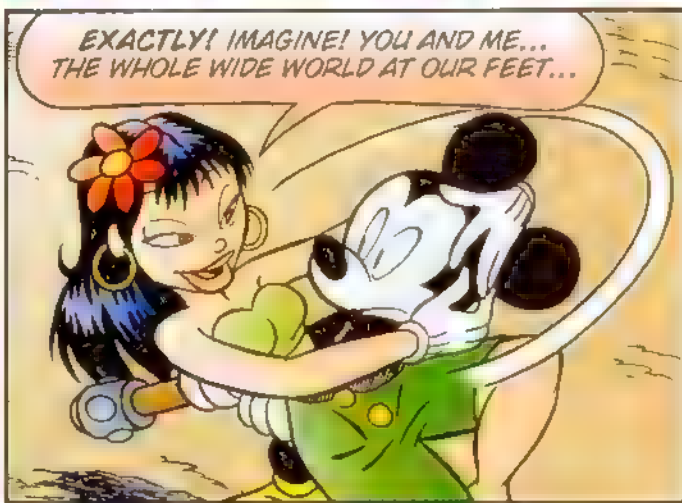
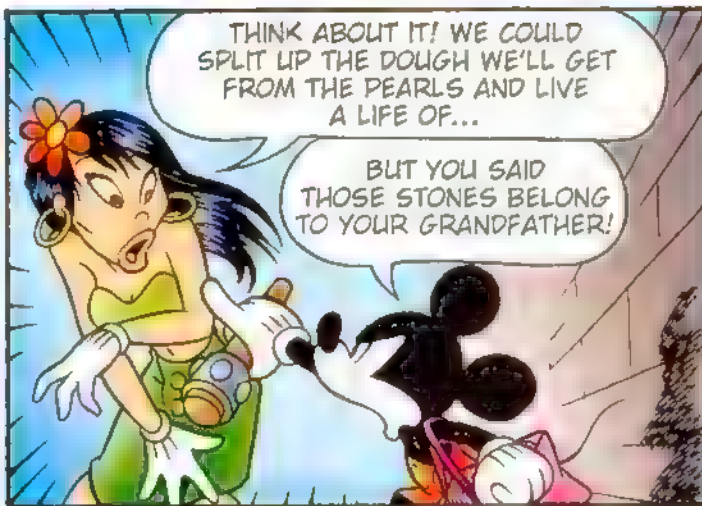
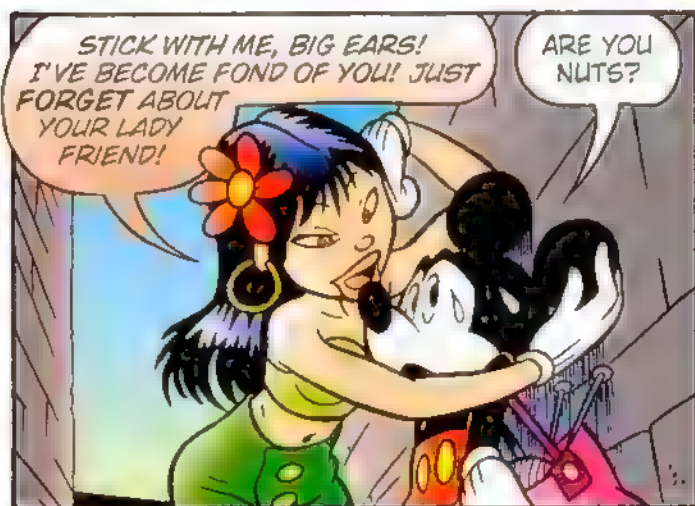
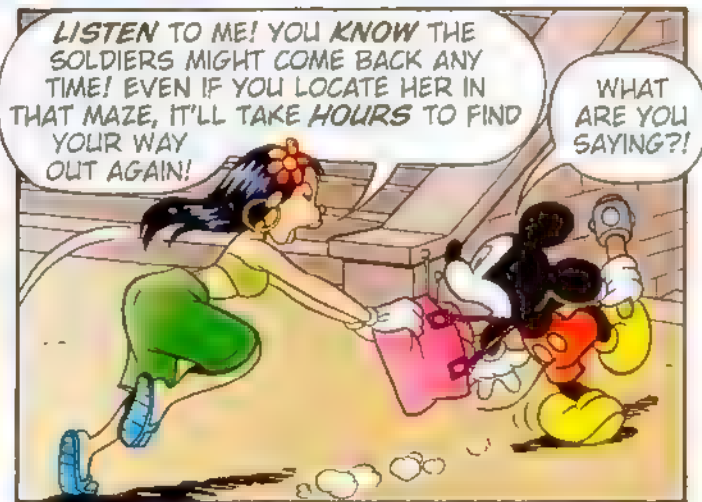
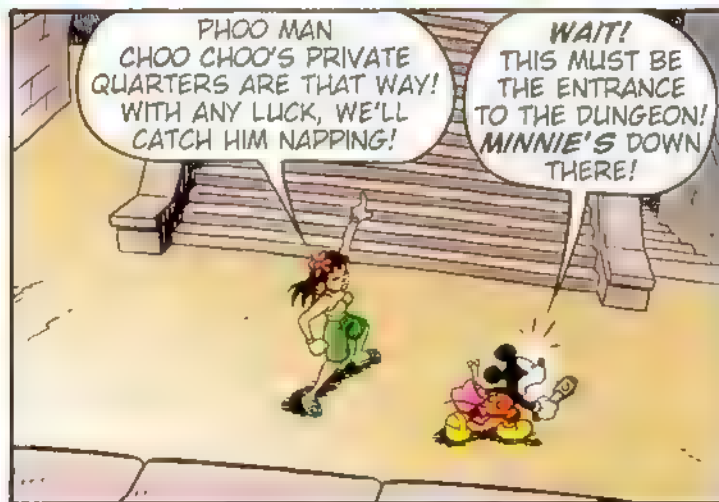
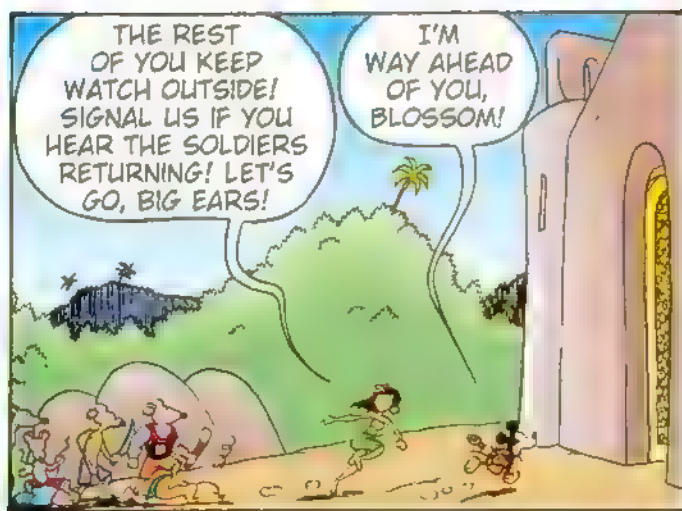
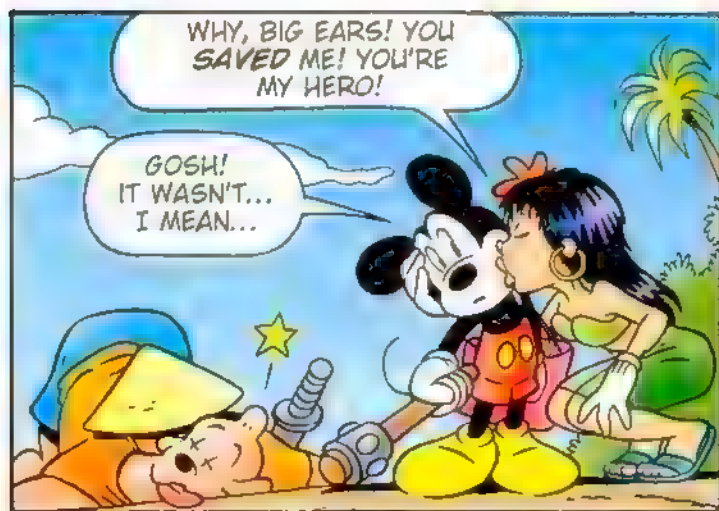
TIE THEM
AND GAG THEM!

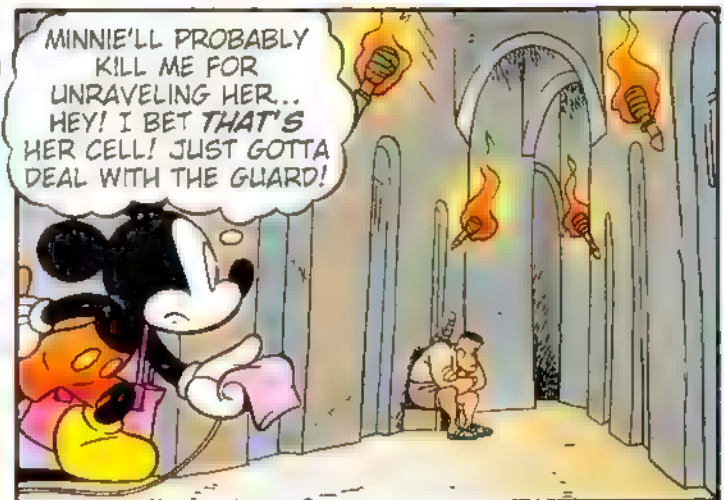
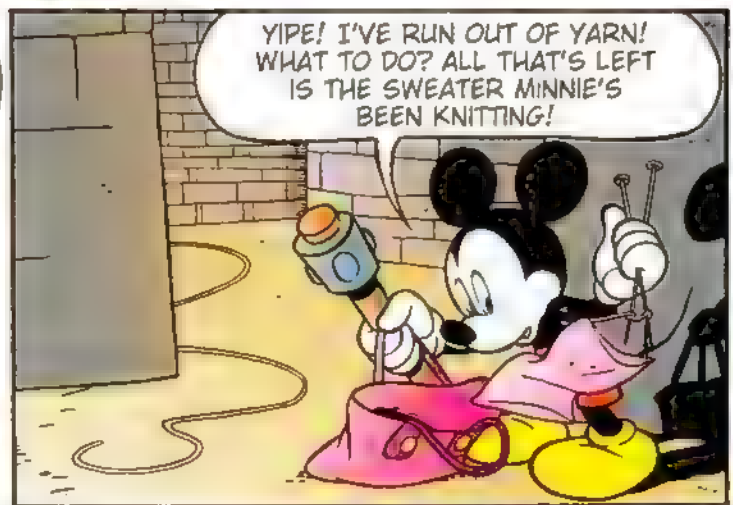
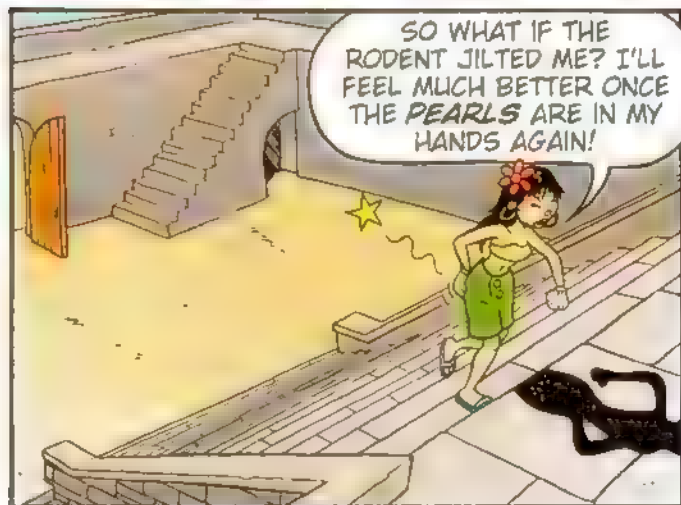
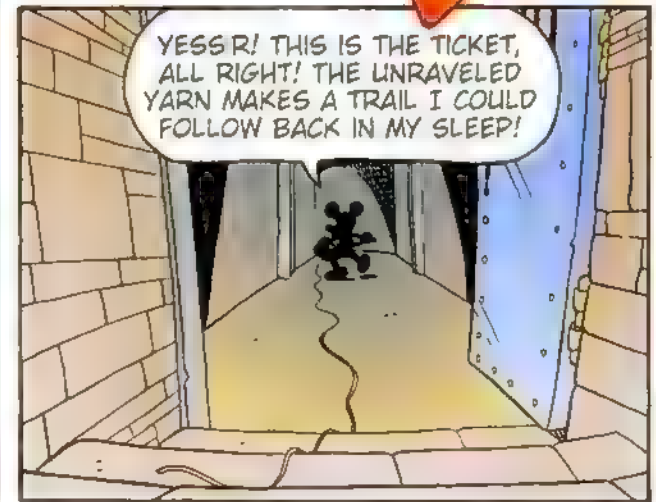
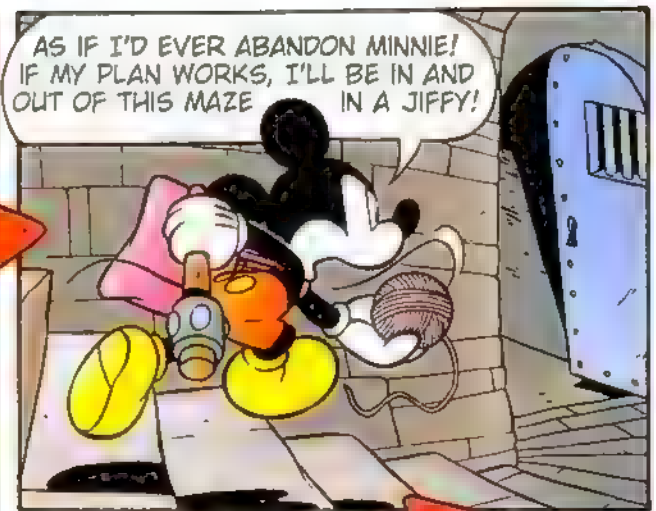
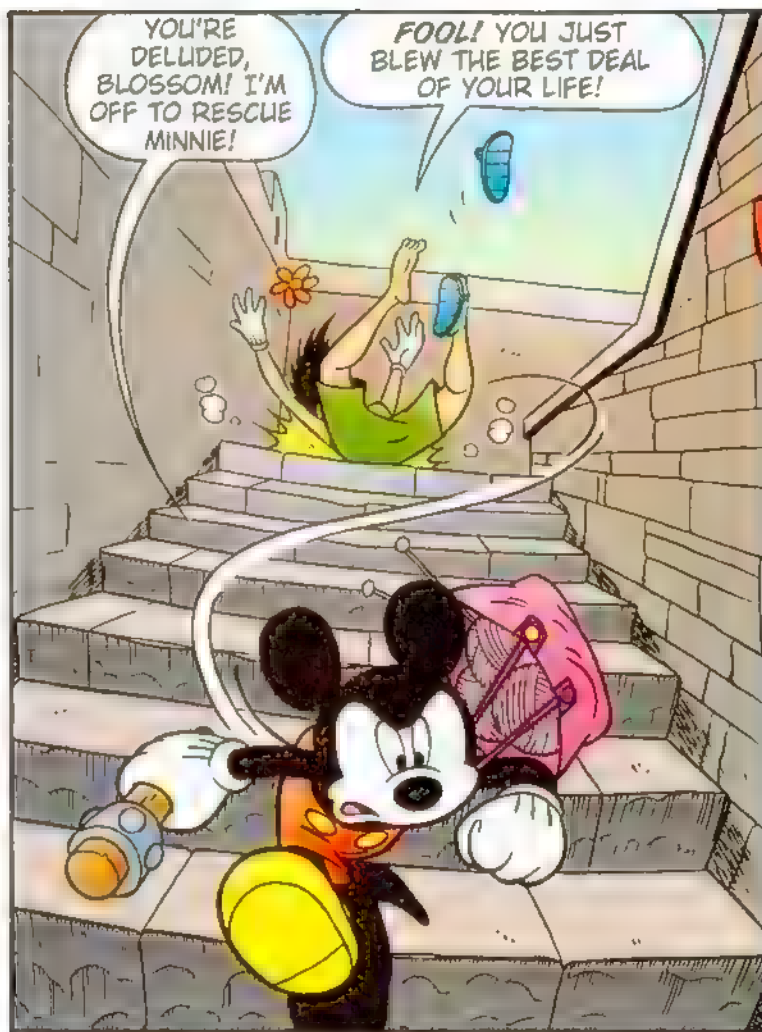


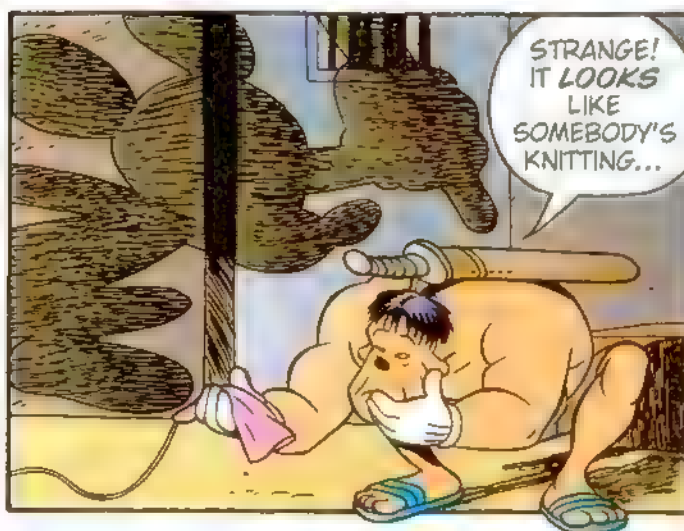
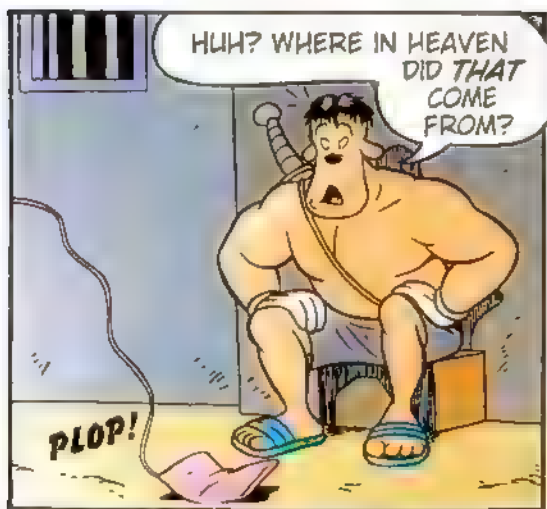
SHE
IS THEIR LEADER!
I'LL TAKE CARE
OF HER!

OH NO
YOU DON'T!

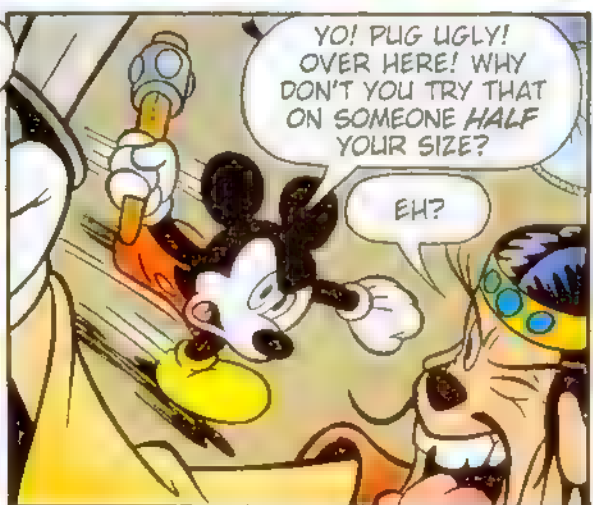
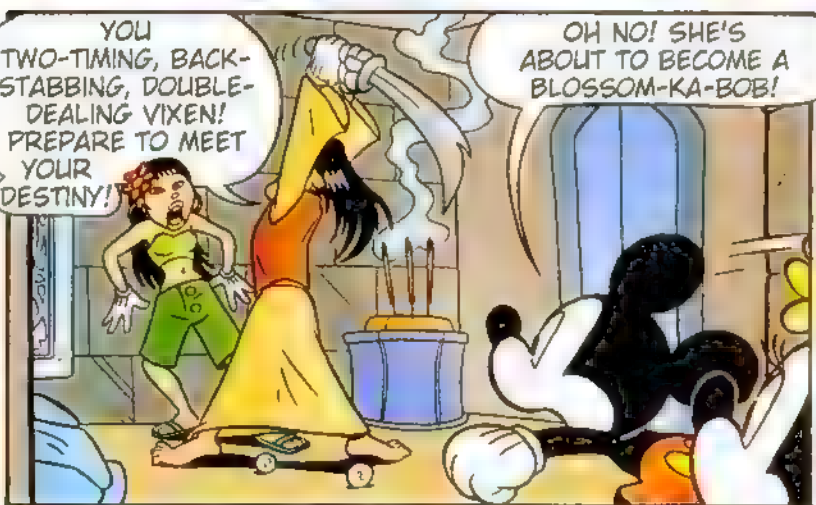
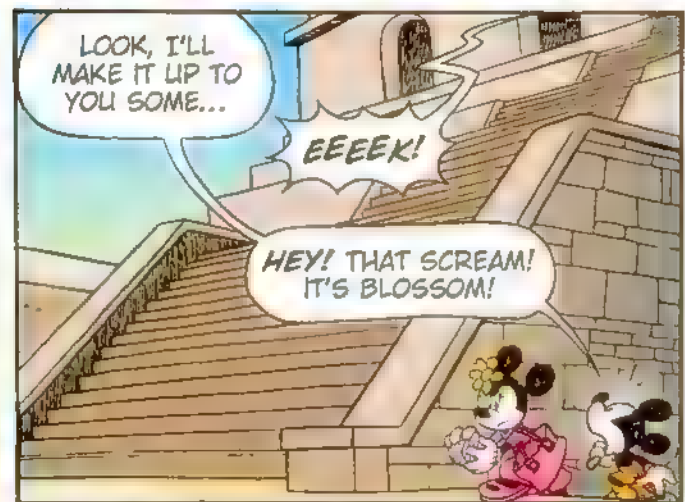
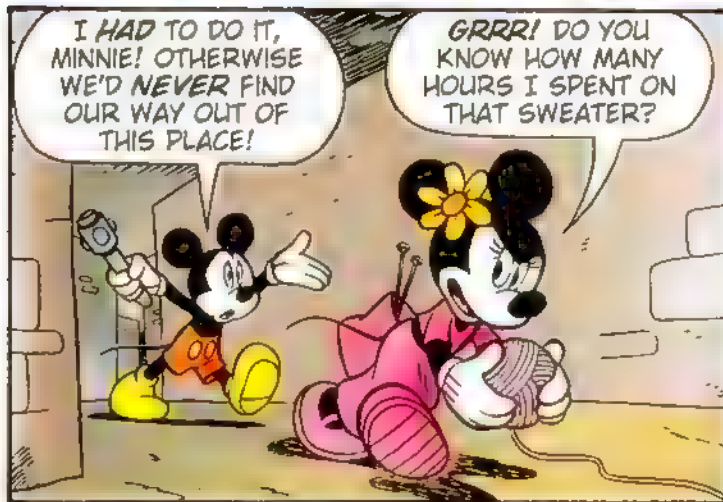
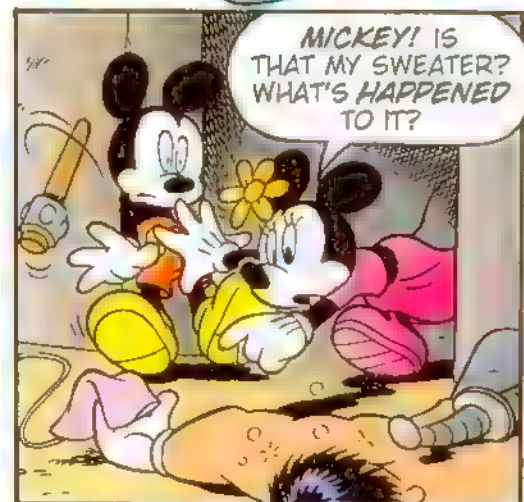
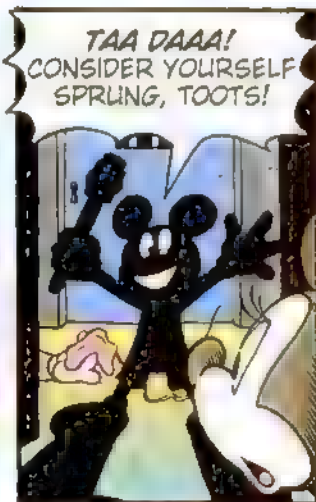


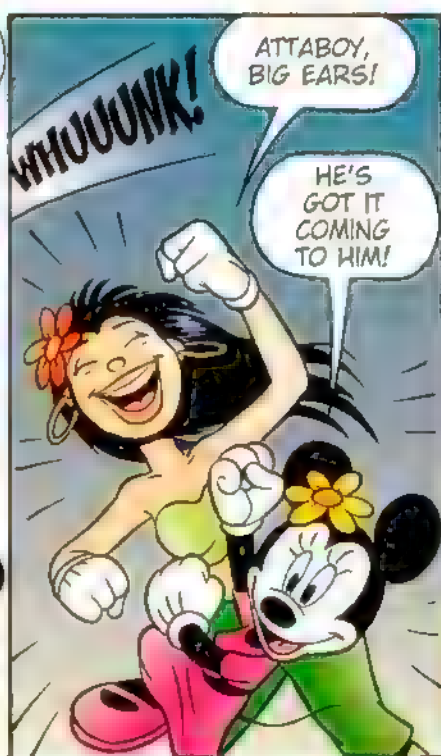
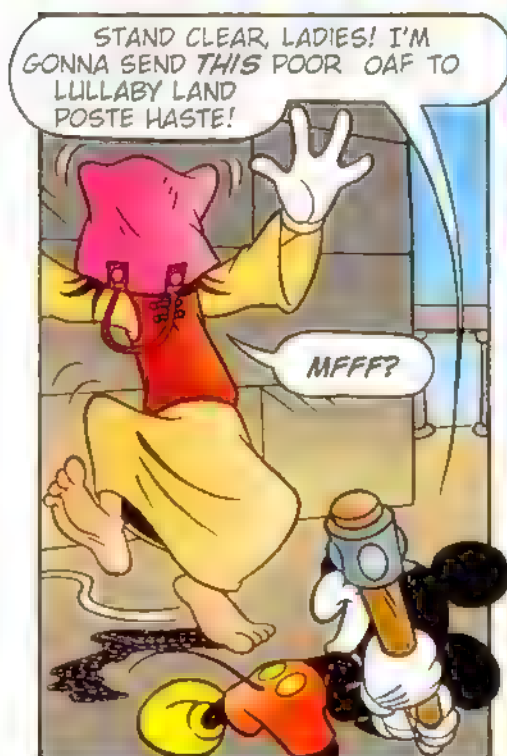
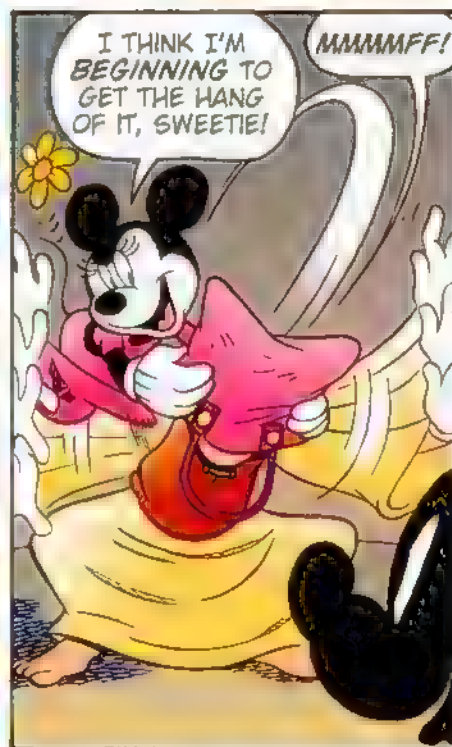
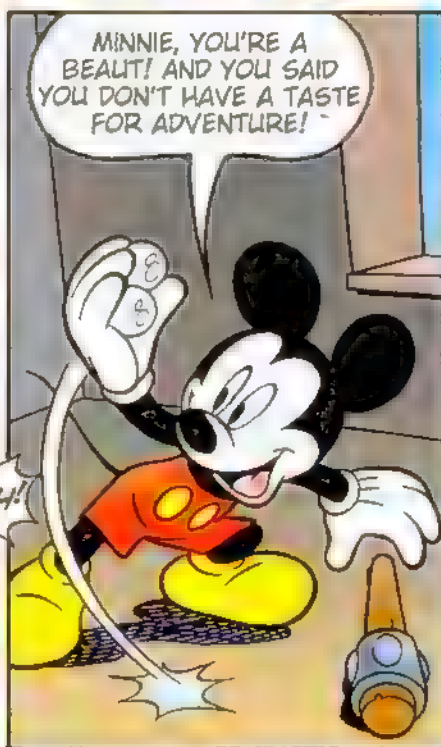
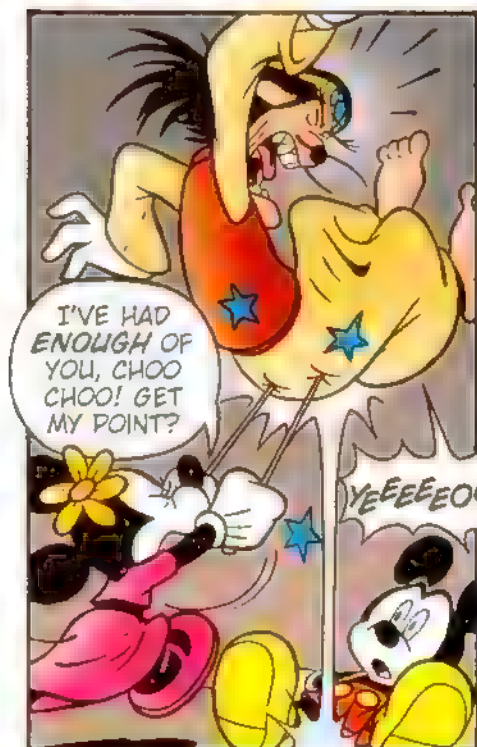
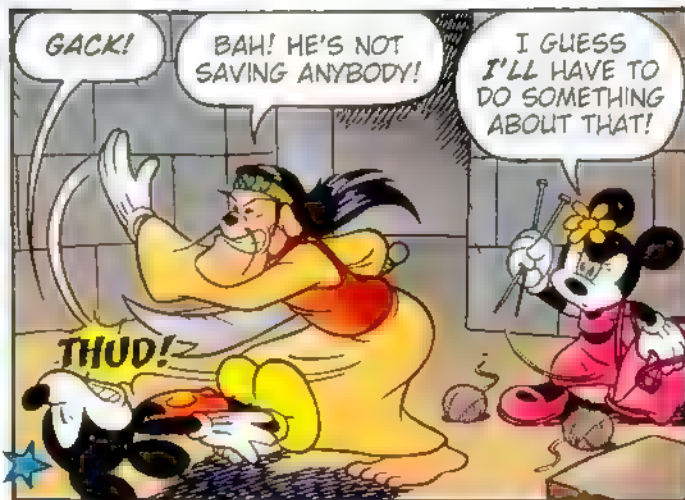
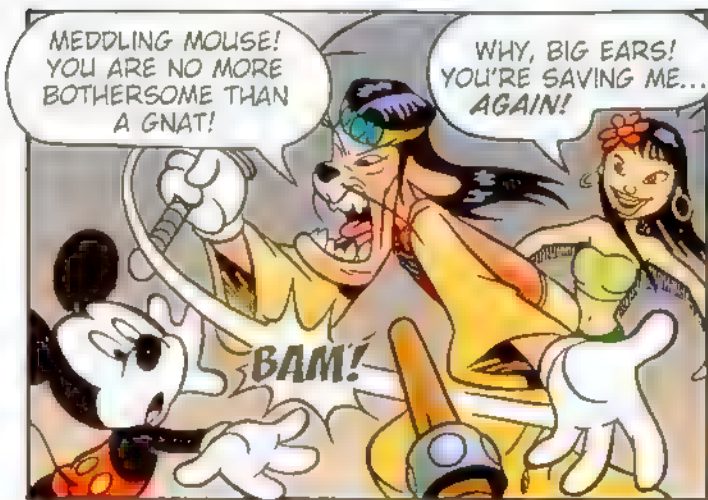




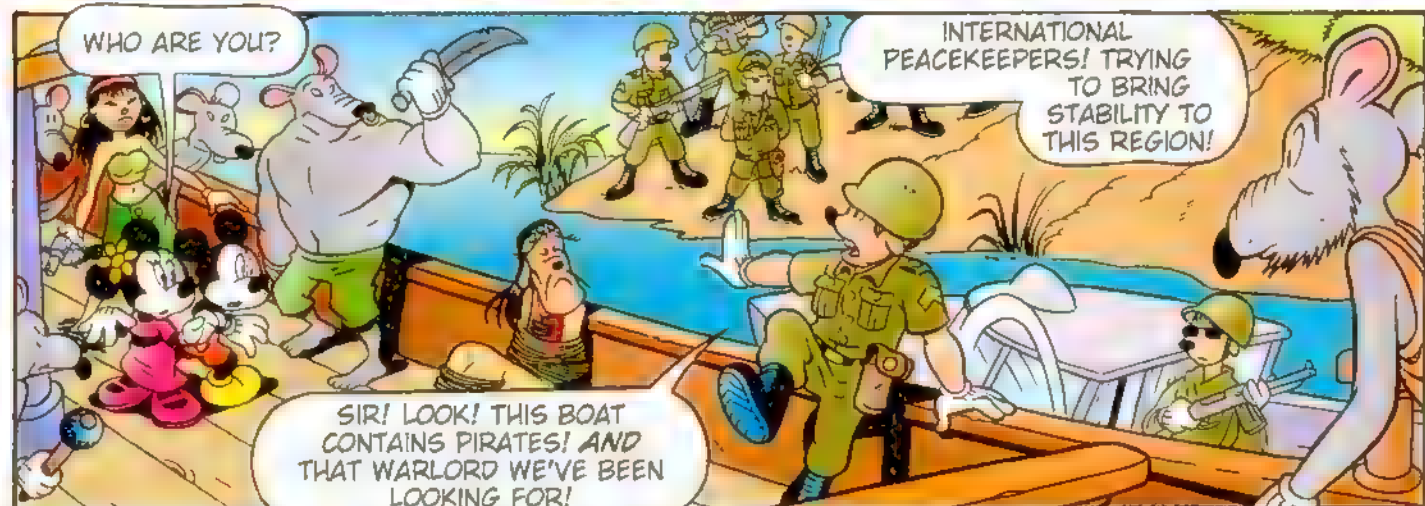
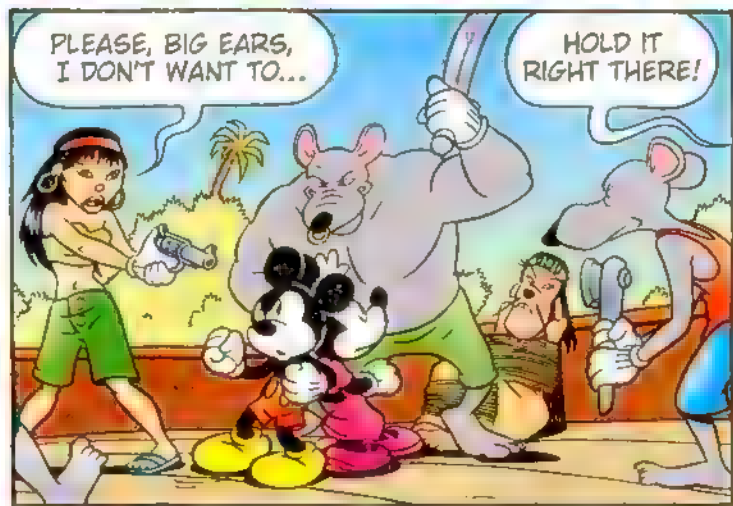
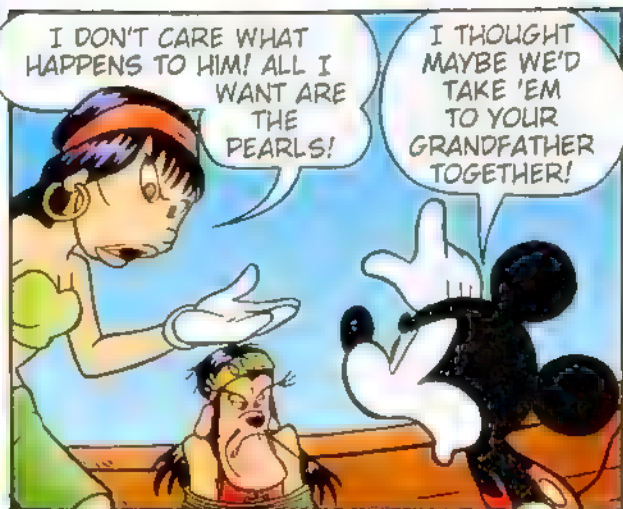


WHAP!

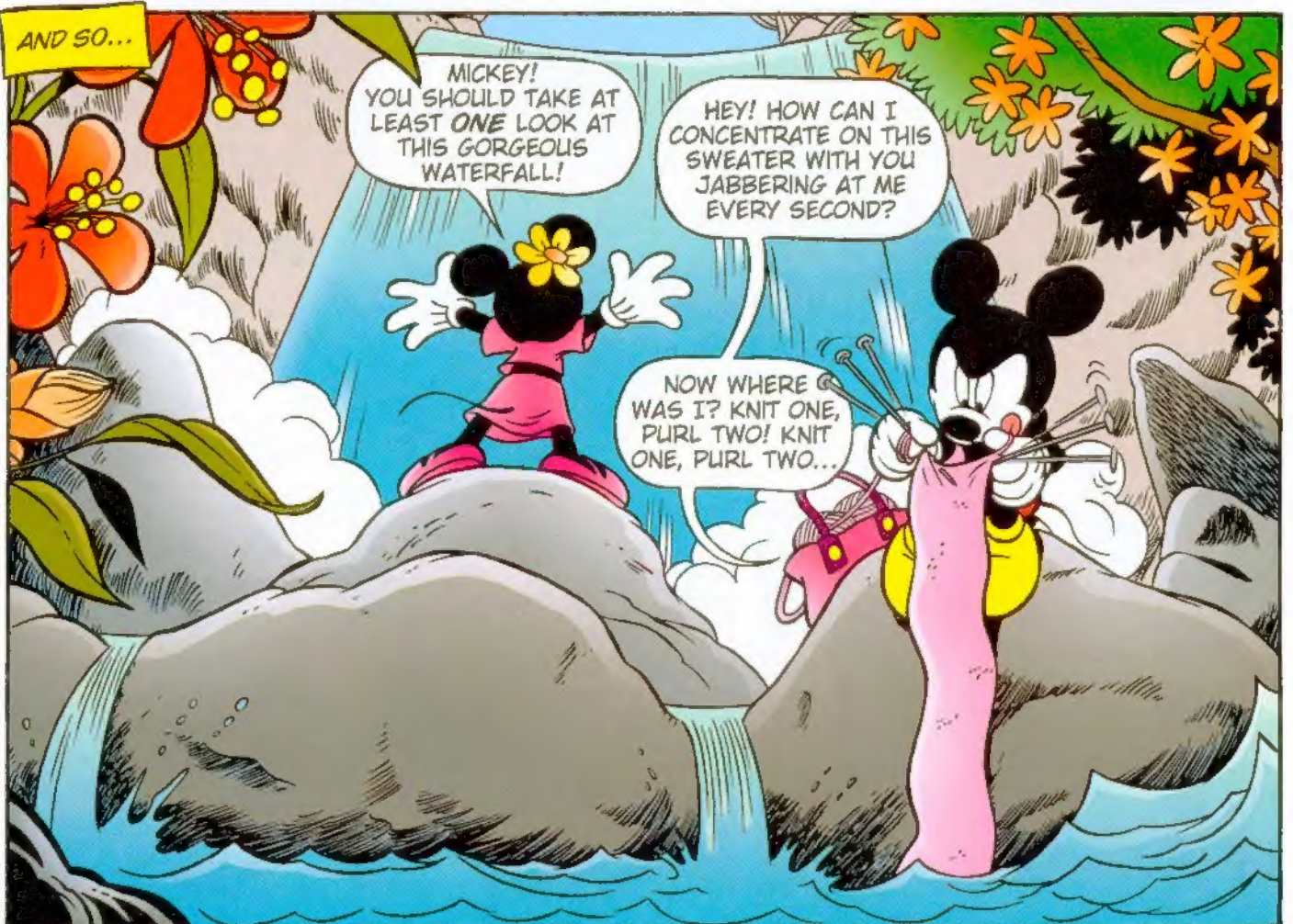
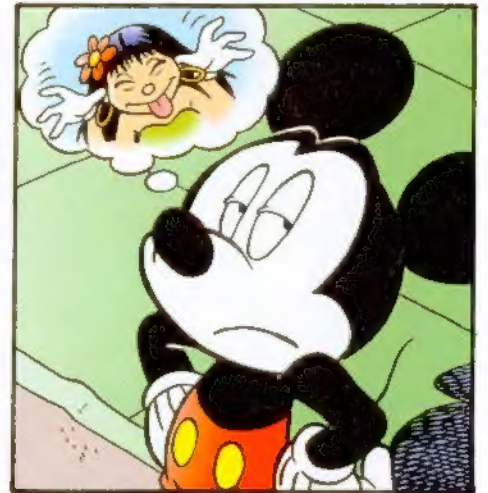
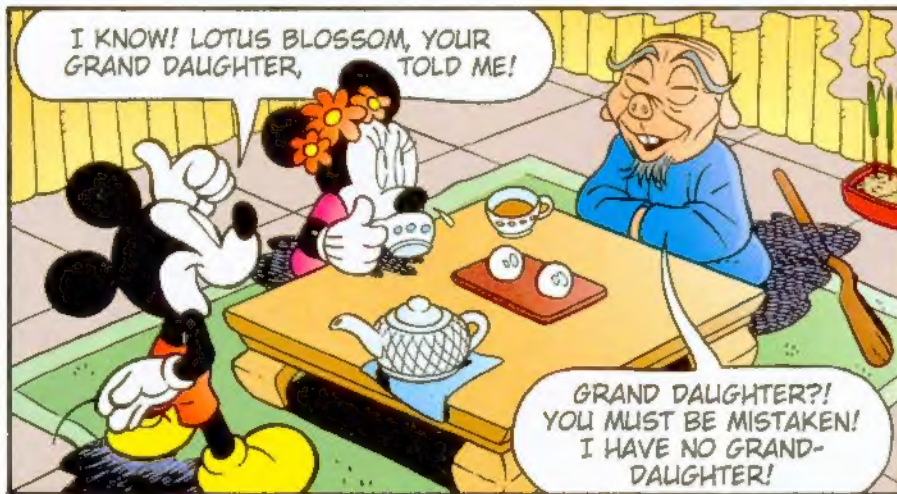
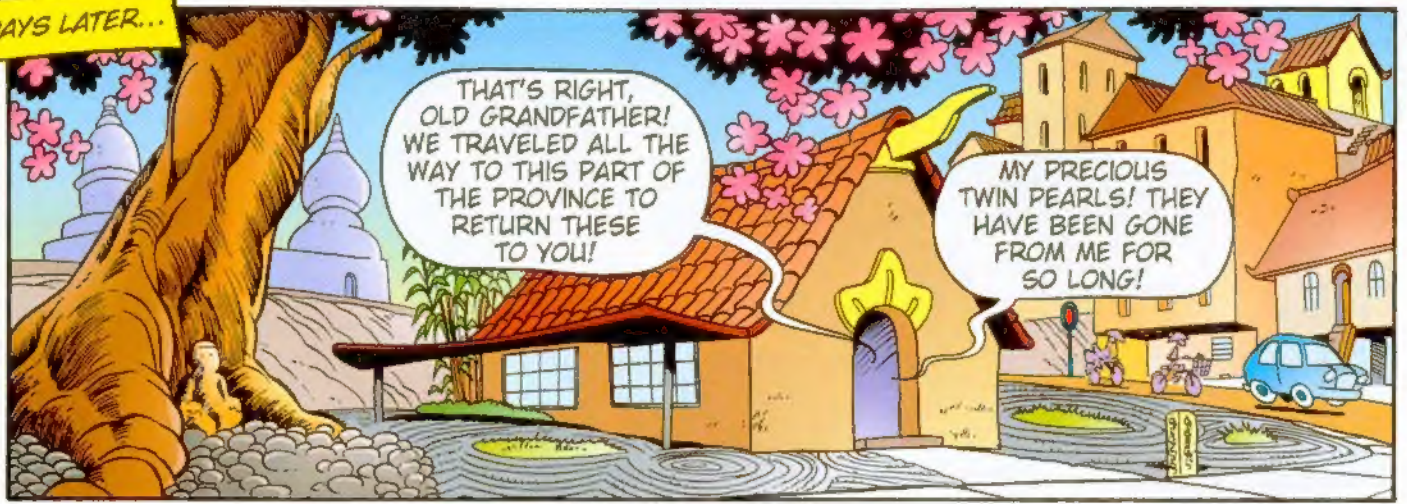




LATER, MANY MILES DOWN-RIVER...



DAYS LATER...



The End

LETTERS

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

E-mail: wdcgs@gemstonepub.com

Surface mail: WDC&S, 1966 Greenspring Drive Ste. 400, Timonium MD 21093.

"Huh? Oh, hi, Santa! What brings you here?"—Zeke, the Big Bad (and obviously naughty, not nice) Wolf, from *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 651. Contrasting the expected emotions of "over-joy" by the likes of Donald, Morty and Ferdie, and even Doc Static, in the various seasonal treats issued by Gemstone, with Zeke's blasé reaction to the arrival of jolly old Saint Nick, the latter is actually quite funny, in a bizarre sort of way! I suppose when you've been as consistently naughty as Zeke, you just come to have low expectations!

Ah, but if there's one place where "low expectations" never apply, it is in the pages of this magazine! Daan Jippes delivers a Christmas Eve miracle for Donald in a near-perfect recreation of the Carl Barks style, *circa* 1958. A reprint of one of William Van Horn's best stories, Mickey's mystery of an "abominable snowman-maker," and a new comic book adaptation of a Pluto Christmas theatrical short ensures a suitable gift for everyone, regardless of shirt or waist size! Add Daisy and Horace to the mix and "Yuletide" me over 'til the next issue with no trouble at all!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

Your first-rate edition of *WDC&S* released for the month of December was, as is rapidly becoming standard, a great joy to read and re-read. Daan Jippes' stories are generally quite good, but I believe "Daredevil Delivery" is the best I've ever read, especially where the artwork is concerned. A number of the scenes in which Donald is roaring around on his ultra-light plane, especially those in the city, are drawn with vivid breath-taking detail. Great kudos to him. Kudos also to Mr. Scott Rockwell, about whom I know nothing, but whose coloring in Mr. Jippes' story greatly helps in bringing the tale to life.

The backup stories, from Donald in "Bogus Badger" to the spotlight on Pluto in "Pluto's Christmas Tree" were great fun as well. It is a treat to enjoy the work of the fine artists/authors Pat and Shelly Block and Kari Korhonen.

Speaking of treats, the William Van Horn cover was a gem, and worth the departure from the always appreciated Daniel Branca, and the back cover reprint of *Mickey Mouse Magazine* was a thrill for those of us interested in the very early days of Walt Disney's funny-animal world.

In fact, the only complaint one could lodge against this issue would be the inclusion of the Van Horn yarn, "Just a Humble, Bumbling Duck," perhaps one of his best, but originally printed far

too recently for this reader to see it again. I find it so disappointing to drop seven dollars for a story I still read often in its original issue, and one that supplants a new Van Horn story to boot. A double whammy like that is tough to absorb sometimes.

All in all, though, a great issue, and a credit to the staff at Gemstone.

—Robert Hutchings
via email

WDC&S 651 is certainly not one of your better issues, but it's not one of your worst issues either. Of course, when the highlight (in my eyes) is the Pluto story, things could use improvement. "Pluto's Christmas Tree" is one of the cartoons I can't help watching during the holiday season, so it was great to see a (surprisingly) faithful adaptation of the short.

Daan Jippes and Stefan Petrucha were good as usual, but the other highlight for this issue was Don Markstein's Horace Horsecollar story. I've been pleased at the attempts of reviving this minor character.

"Bogus Badger" was a very weak entry, though it may have been better if longer; but I was even more disappointed with the incredibly lame Wolf story. I've harped on how I hate Wolf stories where a bigger character (usually Brer Bear) saves the pigs from Zeke, rather than Li'l Wolf or the pigs using their superior intellect, but in this one it was certainly disconcerting to see Santa Claus take over the wolf-beating. I'm uncertain of the title (embarrassing, ain't it?), but there's another Wolf story in the spirit of "A Christmas Carol" that's one of my all-time favorites. Why didn't you print that one instead?

There is also the matter of reprinting these William Van Horn stories from 1990 or so. There's absolutely no need for that.

Sorry for such a negative letter, but this book was really somewhat of a let-down from number 650. I do like the new Van Horn Christmas cover, and I loved seeing a *Mickey Mouse Magazine* cover reprinted on the back.

—Thad Komorowski
via email

As with everything else, we tend to get mixed signals regarding the stories William Van Horn produced for Disney in the early 1990s. Many think it's too soon to reprint them. Others missed out on them the first time around and want us to reprint them all. For now, we'll stick to our policy of featuring them occasionally.

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.

We regret we cannot respond to individual letters; however questions of general interest will be answered in our letters column.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS OR BACK ISSUES? Contact Angie Meyer at mangie@diamondcomics.com

Please do not send subscription, back issue or submission queries to the letters column address. Thank you!

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